

Tripoli rival factions resume clashes

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Rival Lebanese factions clashed for the second time in two weeks in the northern port of Tripoli Tuesday, security sources said. They said the fighting pitted the Syrian "Arab Democratic Party" against the "Islamic Unification Movement". The dominant Lebanese militia in Tripoli, the Islamic Unification Movement supported Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat in recent inter-Palestinian fighting which preceded his evacuation from Tripoli. Automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades were used in Tuesday's relatively minor battle. The security sources said it was not clear whether anyone was hurt.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز جيسس فاؤنڊيشن
جوردان تيمز جيسس فاؤنڊيشن عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Settlements' cost hits Israelis

JERUSALEM (R) — Inflation-hit Israelis are increasingly unhappy about government spending on Jewish settlements in the Arab West Bank, an opinion poll said Tuesday. The poll in the Jerusalem Post said 72 per cent of those questioned thought the settlements budget should be cut first in a national austerity programme being prepared. The right-wing government says its settlements drive in occupied territory, condemned by the United States and most of the world, cost taxpayers about \$400 million last year. Last week another opinion poll found that for the first time a majority of Israelis oppose building more settlements. The Jerusalem Post survey said 52 per cent of Israelis also wanted spending to be trimmed on the Lavie fighter plane programme and a proposed hydro-electric scheme to build a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea.

Volume 9 Number 2455

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 1984, RABIA AL AWWAL 30, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Tunis orders army into streets

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian government Tuesday ordered regular army units to take up strategic positions in Tunis as anti-government riots sparked by food price increases spread to the capital from the south and west of the country. An Interior Ministry statement said "irresponsible elements" had started disturbances in some areas of this city of one and a half million. It asked parents to keep children off the streets.

Farther story on page 2

Frenchman critical after Beirut attack

BEIRUT (R) — A gunman on a motorcycle Tuesday shot and wounded the French consul's driver in central Beirut, and the victim remained in serious condition, in hospital. The driver, Raymond Henri Vauthier, 42, was wearing up his car in the Ain Al Weisse quarter on the seacoast when the gunman opened fire and fled. Lebanese security sources said. He was immediately taken to the American University Hospital where his condition remained critical, hospital sources said.

Kinnock, Papandreou to discuss Lebanon

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party leader, Neil Kinnock, left for Athens Tuesday on a five-day visit at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. Mr. Kinnock said the situation in Lebanon would figure prominently during his talks with Mr. Papandreou. The two men would also discuss plans to reduce unemployment in the European Community, he told reporters at London's Heathrow airport.

Kennedy hospitalised

WASHINGTON (R) — Senator Edward Kennedy is in hospital here with gastric-intestinal influenza, a hospital spokeswoman said Tuesday. She said Mr. Kennedy, 51, entered George Washington University hospital late Monday night. Mr. Kennedy's office said in a statement that he was in stable condition but was dehydrated and was receiving intravenous injections.

Haddad 'serious' but 'stable'

JERUSALEM (R) — Relatives waited Tuesday by the hospital bedside of Israeli-backed Lebanese militia leader Saad Haddad, who is reported to have cancer. A spokesman for Rambam hospital in Haifa described his condition as "serious" but "stable". Doctors, who have refused to discuss media reports that Major Haddad has cancer, said his wife and two brothers were maintaining a bedside vigil.

High speed Paris train fired on

PARIS (R) — Shots were fired from a bridge near Paris at a high speed train, a French railway spokesman said Tuesday. Nobody was wounded in the incident but bullet marks could be seen on a window of the train which entered the Paris Gare de Lyon station minutes later without delay, he said. There was no clue as to who was responsible.

Israeli jets attack Lebanese mountains

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli planes bombed a building in the Druze-held Lebanese mountain town of Bhamdoun Tuesday, causing extensive damage and wounding four civilians, Druze militia officials said.

State-run Beirut Radio said a formation of four planes believed to be Israeli-made Kfir fighter-bombers hit an ammunition dump and a hotel used as a military base by pro-Syrian Palestinian fighters in Bhamdoun.

Officials of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), speaking by telephone from the mountains, said the planes missed the hotel and hit another building farther up the hill.

The four civilians were taken to hospital and released after treatment for superficial cuts, the officials said.

Israeli reconnaissance planes overflew the same area three hours later, prompting reports that a second raid was under way.

Bhamdoun, 18 kilometres east of Beirut on the main highway to Damascus, has been a regular target for Israeli retaliation against the Palestinian fighters it says are responsible for some of the attacks on its troops in the south.

Israeli forces withdrew from the town last September. The PSP took control and let in small groups of Palestinian fighters to help the party in its war with the Lebanese army.

A Syrian statement issued in Damascus said Syrian air defences behind Syrian lines a few kilometres from Bhamdoun intercepted the planes and drove them back to Israel.

The Israeli armed forces reported hits on what they termed "two guerrilla bases" and said the planes returned safely.

The raid, which lasted for seven minutes, was Israel's first in Lebanon since December 21, when it struck at pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militiamen near the northeastern town of Baalbek.

Israel gave no immediate explanation for Tuesday's raid. It did not appear to be in response to any one attack on Israeli troops in the South Lebanon or Western troops in the Beirut area.

The underground resistance in the south has carried out live operations against Israeli troops since Sunday, but Lebanese newspapers said only three Israeli soldiers were wounded.

Gemayel holds consultations

Meanwhile, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel met representatives of the contributors to the Multi-National Force — the United States, France, Italy and Britain — to discuss their part in a proposed security plan billed as a first step towards a lasting peace.

The plan would give a greater role to the undermanned Lebanese army and would help to keep the Western troops out of crossfire by disengaging rival militias.

Presidential palace sources said the plan could come into effect very soon.

South Lebanon was reported relatively calm after a wave of protests last week at the arrest of two Muslim clerics.

The only incident was when Israeli forces broke into a mosque on the outskirts of the southern port of Sidon and searched it with dogs, security sources said.

Mosques and Muslim religious leaders have been at the forefront of the opposition to Israeli rule in the south and the clerics arrested are apparently suspected of encouraging underground resistance activities.

Beirut Radio reported later that an Israeli armoured patrol came under fire near the Sinniq Bridge in southern Lebanon.

Fateh leaders end 3-day talks

TUNIS (R) — The Central Committee of Yasser Arafat's Fateh commando group has ended a three-day meeting on the movement's future and was expected to issue a communiqué Tuesday.

The gathering, which finished Monday night, was the first of the 11-member body since Mr. Arafat's forced evacuation from the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli and his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo two weeks ago.

The Central Committee meeting was held behind closed doors, but Khaled Al Hassan, a committee member and chairman of the Political Affairs Committee of the "Palestine" National Council (parliament in exile), told the Tunisian news agency GAF that "total agreement" was reached on all issues discussed.

Earlier, a Palestinian source quoted another participant as saying the "discussions had not been easy".

The committee had to evaluate the recent surprise meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Mubarak, as well as the general situation within the PLO, of which Fateh is the main faction.

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U.S. flights to continue in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (R) — Despite Syria's release of Lieutenant Robert Goodman, the White House said Tuesday U.S. aircraft will continue reconnaissance flights over Syrian-held positions in Lebanon to protect U.S. Marines near Beirut.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the flights were "a defensive mechanism" and would go on until attacks by Syrian-backed forces on the Marines serving with the Multi-National Force (MNF) had stopped.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad ordered the release of Lt. Goodman earlier Tuesday during a mission to Damascus by Democratic presidential contender Jesse Jackson. Lt. Goodman was captured by the Syrians after being shot down while on a reconnaissance flight on Dec. 4.

President Reagan, awakened before dawn to be told of Lt. Goodman's release, said in a statement all Americans would be pleased.

Mr. Reagan later conferred with U.S. Middle East negotiator Donald Rumsfeld. He said Mr. Rumsfeld, who has made two trips to the Middle East, would return there Tuesday night to continue efforts for a settlement.

Mr. Reagan, who spoke to Mr. Jackson and Lt. Goodman by telephone Tuesday morning, told reporters the flight "sounded just fine". Mr. Reagan said he would see Mr. Jackson in the White House, he added.

Mr. Reagan, who told reporters "you don't quarrel with success" even when it was brought off by a political opponent, said to Mr. Jackson on the telephone: "All Americans thank you. I have been praying for you. I could not be happier."

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Rev. Jesse Jackson (left) with captured American pilot Lt. Robert Goodman (centre) after the black U.S. presidential candidate secured his release in Damascus (A.P. wirephoto)

Jackson leaves Syria with freed pilot, calls for Reagan-Assad summit

DAMASCUS (R) — Black American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson flew from Damascus Tuesday along with U.S. airman Lieutenant Robert Goodman, freed by Syria 30 days after he was shot down during a bombing raid over Lebanon.

Just before flying out for Frankfurt, West Germany, en route to the U.S., Mr. Jackson, who hopes to contend the U.S. presidency this year, called for a summit meeting between the U.S. and Syrian presidents for the sake of peace.

"This was a big gesture by Syria and we are now leaving in peace," Mr. Jackson said in a large statement at Damascus airport.

He said he had telephoned President Reagan earlier to inform him of Lt. Goodman's release and that the U.S. president had "welcomed this achievement and thanked us for our efforts."

"I called on President Reagan to take a similar step and open a dialogue with President Hafez Al Assad," Mr. Jackson said.

Al Assad, I call on him to hold a summit meeting with President Assad, for all meetings between two presidents have always resulted in understanding through good dialogue for the maintenance of peace in this region," Mr. Jackson declared.

He, his delegation and Lt. Goodman were seen off by U.S. Ambassador Robert Paganelli and Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Issam Al Naib.

They left for Frankfurt aboard a U.S. air force plane several hours after Lieutenant Goodman was handed over to Mr. Jackson in the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

A Syrian government statement said Lt. Goodman's release was the result of a "humanitarian appeal" by Mr. Jackson, a candidate for the Democratic nomination in this year's U.S. presidential election, who arrived in Damascus on Dec. 30.

In Washington, President Reagan said: "We are delighted that this brave young man will soon be united with his family and that his ordeal is over."

Lt. Goodman, a naval navigator-bombardier who, like Mr. Jackson, is black, was shot down on a raid over Syrian-held areas of Lebanon on Dec. 4. The pilot of his A-1H Intruder fighter-bomber, Lt. Walter Lange, was killed.

He told reporters he felt "real good" and that the first thing he would do on returning to the United States would be to hug his wife, Marilyn.

The handover followed a final round of talks between Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and Mr. Jackson, who met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Monday.

Syria said in its statement that in releasing Lt. Goodman it took into account earlier appeals by the U.S. administration as well as the fact that Saudi Arabia had "created conditions facilitating the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Lebanon."

Parliament should be restored, Jordan politicians say, but effort needed for success

In the first of two articles on the restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan, Jordan Times Staff Reporter Lamis K. Andoni interviews five prominent political figures and examines with them the prospects for a smooth return of an elected parliament in the Kingdom. The second article will appear in tomorrow's Jordan Times:

AMMAN — A number of Jordanian political personalities have called for a prompt restoration of parliamentary life, but some are voicing the opinion that more democratic freedoms should be secured so as to guarantee a successful parliamentary experience.

In a series of interviews with the Jordan Times, five Jordanian politicians asserted that it is time for Jordan to go back to parliamentary life, which was suspended in 1974, in order "to increase citizens' participation in the decision-making and to strengthen the political system."

The five political personalities who are currently members of the National Consultative Council (NCC), are Taher Hikmat, Amin Shukair, Mahmoud Al Kayed, Jamal Al Shaer and Laila Sharaf.

The NCC, whose members are nominated by the cabinet and appointed by His Majesty King Hussein, was set up in 1978. Issues and laws are referred to the council by the government for consultation and discussion. Laws approved by the NCC, however, are not binding on the government because only an elected parliament can pass permanent and binding laws. The council, currently serving a third term, will end in next April.

The five NCC members interviewed reiterated that the council is no substitute for an elected parliament and advocated the restoration of the suspended parliament.

The six-member parliament, which had equal representatives from the West Bank and the East Bank of the River Jordan, was suspended by the government in 1974. The suspension was compelled by conditions created by the 1967 Israeli occupation of the

West Bank which was bound by a union with the East Bank since 1952.

The loss of West Bank has made it impossible to hold parliamentary elections, since the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that elections should take place in the seven governorates of both the West Bank and East Bank.

The constitution could have been amended to allow elections to be held in the East Bank alone, but there have always been fears that such a step would create "a constitutional vacuum" which Israel might exploit to replace Jordanian laws by Israeli laws on the West Bank.

All five political personalities interviewed by the Jordan Times last week stressed that there should be a way to overcome this obstacle, for the current political situation requires a prompt return to democracy. This view was strongly endorsed by Mrs. Sharaf, wife of the late prime minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf. "The situation in the West Bank should not be an excuse for us to remain in a limbo, to remain at a stalemate in developing our political institution and consequently our all rounded socio-political existence," she said.

Mr. Shukair views the occupation of the West Bank as an important factor that prompts the restoration of the parliament. "The occupation of the West Bank constitutes a great threat that can only be confronted by a broad participation of the people in the political life through a democratic formula," he said.

An almost similar opinion was voiced by Dr. Shaer, a former cabinet minister, who stressed that "political challenges faced by Jordan compels more participation



Mahmoud Al Kayed

by the people in the decision-making process."

"The need for parliamentary life stems from the fact that important national decisions need to be discussed and made by the widest base possible, and the biggest number of the population should participate in it," he said.

Dr. Shaer, well known for his staunch advocacy for the return to democracy, pointed out that parliamentary life would enhance the stability of the political system.

"The democratic attitude has always been a factor of stability in Jordan," he said.

Dr. Shaer also brought up a legal aspect, which he said, necessitates the reconvening of the parliament. He explained that almost one third of the seats became vacant due to the death of members' (since 1974), and the quorum of two thirds must be kept to avoid a constitutional problem.

Mrs. Sharaf, one of the four women members of the NCC, who describes herself as "a strong believer in democracy," said that "a return to parliamentary life is only a return to the natural state of affairs."

She warned that Jordan should go back to its "natural constitutional existence before we get too comfortable with our unnatural circumstances."

Mr. Kayed, president of the Jordanian Journalists Association, who expressed strong



Laila Sharaf

support for the idea, said that "Jordanians are concerned that an elected legislative authority should resume its functions."

Freedoms required first

Although the five politicians expressed enthusiasm for the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan, three of them stressed that more democratic freedoms should be secured first to ensure a successful parliamentary experience.

Mr. Hikmat, Mrs. Sharaf and Mr. Shukair noted that the issue of restoring parliamentary life cannot be detached from the social and political conditions of the country. They said that certain changes should precede and accompany the return to parliamentary life.

Mr. Shukair said that a period "in which restrictions on democratic freedoms are alleviated and public dialogue is encouraged" should precede elections.

Referring to the martial law that has been in effect since 1967, Mr. Shukair said "these are exceptional laws that should not become a rule."

Echoing a rather similar view, Mr. Hikmat, a former minister of culture and youth, suggested "a transitional period" in which democratic freedoms are encouraged and reforms of the voting and election system are effected.



Taher Hikmat

should precede the restoration of parliament.

'Free public dialogue'

He said the government should encourage "a free public dialogue" of political issues and encourage the establishment of political institutions in which citizens are encouraged to participate, a view that contrasted with Mr. Kayed's opinion that the formation of political parties is not a prerequisite for parliamentary elections.

Mr. Kayed described the freedoms currently allowed as "enough" and said they allowed both candidates and voters to express their views freely.

The establishment and encouragement of political institutions, a demand strongly endorsed by Mr. Hikmat, Mrs. Sharaf and Mr. Shukair does not necessarily imply a legalisation of "present political parties" that are thought to operate illegally in the country.

The Political Parties Law Number 13 enacted in 1955 allows the

formation of political parties which are approved by a cabinet decree. Political groups that intend to form a party have to submit an application for a licence to the cabinet which has the full right to approve or reject it. The law empowers the government to dissolve the parties if necessary. It does, however, ban the legal formation of communist parties.

The last parties that functioned legally in Jordan were the Arab Baathist Party and the National Socialist Party. Both were dissolved by a cabinet decree upon the declaration of martial law in April 1957. That martial law was lifted in 1958 but was reinforced again on the eve of 1967 Arab-Israeli war and is still in effect.

Mr. Hikmat expressed opposition to what he referred to as "ideological parties" but supported "the formation of liberal and pragmatic parties." He also called for measures to counter what he called "intellectual terrorism" and "political hypocrisy" that are practised by forces which support the system as well as by those who claim to oppose it. He did not elaborate on the nature of these measures nor on the political forces mentioned.

Mrs. Sharaf said that the return to parliamentary life should not be an isolated happening because "it does not happen in a vacuum." It should be preceded and accompanied by a strengthening of existing institutions, an opening of all channels of communication and interaction, and by encouraging the dynamics of all citizens in the decision-making process and execution, she said.

"Reforms essential"

The voting and election system in Jordan, both Mr. Hikmat and Mr. Shukair pointed out, should undergo reforms in order to get the broadest participation to prevent the elections from turning out to be just "a competition between influential groups and tribes."

"Reforms should be effected or the ugly face of tribalism and the destructive influence of wealth will prevail," Mr. Hikmat warned. Reforms suggested by Mr. Hikmat include laws that stipulate that all voters should be able to read and write, and the use of voting identity cards during elections. The financial conditions of voting and nomination, Mr. Hikmat said, should be re-assessed in a manner that allows people from different strata to run for elections. He also stressed that campaign funds should be limited.

Mrs. Sharaf touched upon another important aspect that is necessary for "representative elections." She noted that special attention should be given to raising the awareness of the voters, and said "it is the duty of the private and public information establishments, that should first undergo a re-examination, to start educating the public on different issues."

"An informed voter is a constructive voter and an ignorant or uninformed voter can be a destructive one," she said.

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Tunisian food riots spread to capital

TUNIS (R) — Dark clouds of smoke hung over Tunis at noon Tuesday as police using teargas and smoke grenades clashed with demonstrators who set fire to a bus in a protest against government bread price increases, eyewitnesses said.

Police were out in force in the city centre where shopkeepers had boarded up their windows as demonstrators marched through the streets shouting slogans against the increases which more than doubled the price of bread from Jan. 1.

Earlier, groups of youths had thrown stones at windows and damaged cars in the area around the old city, the Medina, witnesses said.

The Interior Ministry said Monday that four people died and an unspecified number were injured in incidents in the depressed south and west of the country, but local sources reached by telephone Monday night suggested the toll was higher.

They said perhaps as many as 15 people were killed and about 60 injured in Kasserine, 200 kilometres south-west of Tunis, the mining town of Gafsa, farther south, and Gabes, a resort and oasis city by the coast.

President Habib Bourguiba, 81, left Tunis Tuesday for his home town of Monastir to start cel-

ebrations for the 50th anniversary of his Socialist Destourian Party, which has ruled Tunisia since independence in 1956.

The Tunisian press played down the incidents Tuesday. The main French-language daily, *L'Action* and *Le Presse*, reprinted the Interior Ministry statement on inside pages without comment.

President Bourguiba decided last year to introduce a multi-party system and legalised two opposition parties.

On Monday, the main opposition party, the Socialist Democratic Movement (MSD), deplored violence by rioters and denounced the "brutal" government reaction, saying many had fallen to the bullets of government forces.

A junior cabinet minister said on television Monday night that measures to help poor Tunisians hardest hit by the rises in cereal products prices would be implemented as soon as possible.

The government had begun talks with the powerful General Union of Tunisian Workers on

how to help workers. The MSD called Monday night for the price rises to be reversed and for national talks on Tunisia's economic difficulties.

Unconfirmed reports from local labour organisations said police and national guard units opened fire in Gafsa, near the Algerian border, where eight people were killed and 40 injured.

Labour sources in the southern coastal city of Gabes said an unknown number of people were injured there when army units intervened. They added that four people were killed on Saturday during clashes in nearby towns.

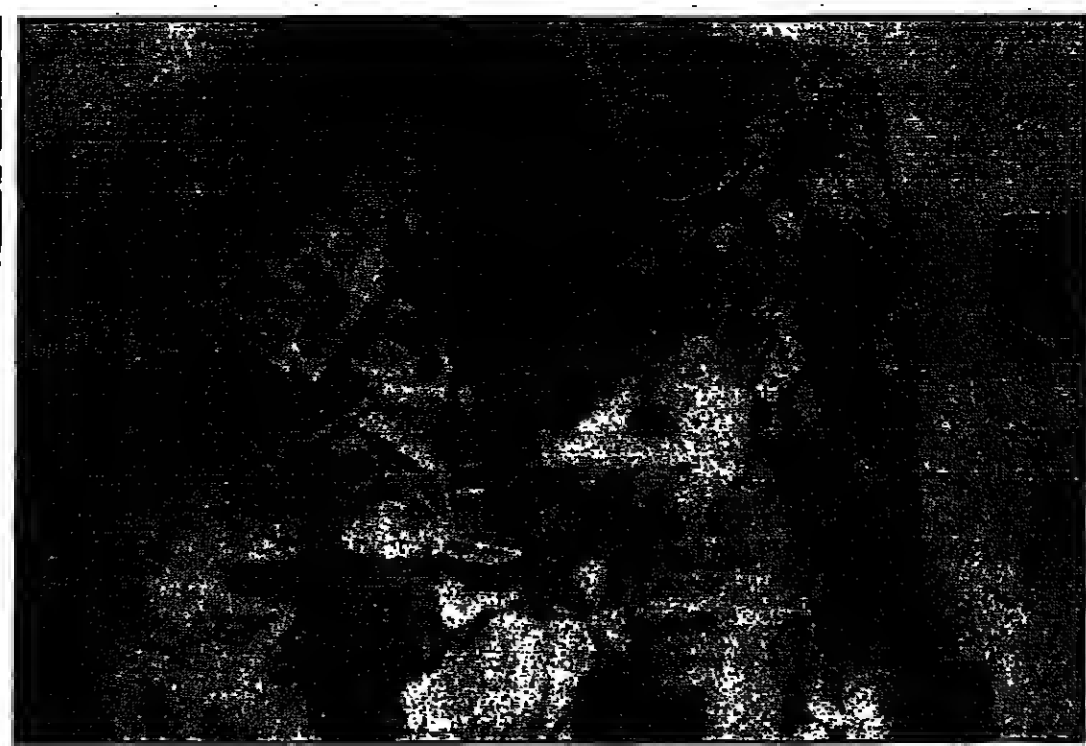
In Kasserine, north of Gafsa, medical sources said three people were killed by gunfire and 19 injured in rioting on Sunday.

Local people said all three towns were quiet Monday night as troops patrolled the streets backed by armoured vehicles.

Strikes and demonstrations have also been reported from other cities, including Tunis and the southern port of Sfax.

The Interior Ministry said Monday that the rioting had been "provoked by idlers, unemployed workers and hostile elements."

The government announced last October that it would end subsidies on grain products, including bread and couscous, to help cut its budget deficit.



Rescuers carry a stretcher with a victim of the explosion Saturday night, which ripped through a speeding train north of Marseilles, killing three people (A.P. wirephoto)

Lebanese group claims bomb attacks

PARIS (R) — A group calling itself the Children of Sheikh Abdullah Monday claimed responsibility for bomb attacks against a French railway station, a high speed train and a cultural centre in Tripoli, Lebanon.

An anonymous caller telephoned International News Agencies in Paris and said the attacks were revenge for the French air strike against the Sheikh Abdullah barracks near Baalbek, Lebanon, on Nov. 17.

The barracks are a training centre for the Islamic Amal Movement headed by pro-Iranian Shiite leader Hussein Moussawi. Shortly before the caller made the claim, French officials said the death toll in the two bomb attacks

against a railway station in Marseilles and a high speed TGV train travelling from the southern city to Paris on New Year's eve had risen to five.

One of the people seriously injured on the train died Monday in hospital, bringing the toll to three dead on the train and two dead at the station.

A bomb Sunday destroyed the French Cultural Centre in Tripoli.

The caller said Monday: "We, the children of Sheikh Abdullah, claim responsibility for the triple attacks against France on New Year's eve and in Tripoli. This was revenge for the victims of the French bombardment of the Sheikh Abdullah barracks in Baalbek

on Nov. 17. Future attacks will not go unpunished."

Earlier in Tripoli a little known group calling itself the "Armed Arab Struggle Organisation" handed a written message to local journalists claiming responsibility for the New Year's eve bombings.

The message, in French and Arabic, said: "We will not let only our children weep for the blood of the Baalbek martyrs."

French planes carried out a raid against a pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim guerrilla base in the Lebanese city of Baalbek after a suicide truck-bomb attack on the headquarters of the French multinational contingent in Beirut killed 58 paratroopers.

PFLP blames Bonn for prison fire

DAMASCUS (R) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) accused the West German government Monday of "burning six prisoners" in a West Berlin jail and said the "crime would not go unpunished."

It was referring to the deaths two days ago of six prisoners, three Sri Lankans, a Lebanese, a

Tunisian and a Palestinian, in a fire in their cell.

A West German police spokesman said the prisoners probably started the fire as a demonstration and ruled out an earlier theory that the incident resulted from a suicide pact.

The victims, who barricaded themselves in the cell before sei-

zing mattresses on fire, were awaiting deportation.

The PFLP, one of the most radical Palestinian groups, said in its statement that the West German authorities "committed an abominable crime when two days ago they burned six prisoners, among them one Palestinian and one Lebanese."

Sartawi murder trial starts in Portugal

ALBUFEIRA, Portugal (R) — A young Arab, whose real identity has baffled investigators, goes on trial Wednesday for the murder of Palestinian moderate Issam Sartawi.

Police arrested the Arab, who identified himself as Yusef Al Awad, a Moroccan living in Casablanca, at a Lisbon hotel after Dr. Sartawi, a special envoy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attending the Socialist International Congress, was shot dead in Albufeira.

Moroccan consular officials who questioned Al Awad, 26, said his passport was false and his accent was not Moroccan. He spoke English but no French.

Dr. Sartawi, a 47-year-old heart surgeon, died instantly after the gunman pumped shots into the back of his head, in front of horrified tourists, at the Montehoro Hotel housing the Socialist International.

A hard-line Palestinian group led by radical guerrilla chief Abu Nidal who is opposed to the PLO

leadership, claimed responsibility for the murder, saying Dr. Sartawi was a servant of Israel and British intelligence.

Dr. Sartawi was one of PLO's chief moderates who believed diplomacy was the best way to persuade the world to support a Palestinian homeland.

Shocked delegates to the conference, attended by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, said security was lax.

Tunisian riots underline political force of subsidised food prices

By Charles Lambelin
Reuter

TUNIS — The price of bread is an explosive issue in a country like Tunisia where it is the staple food for the poor and, for everybody, a cost-of-living symbol.

Four people were killed last weekend and an unspecified number injured, according to an official statement, in explosions of violence in several towns of southern Tunisia following sharp increases in the price of bread.

Sources close to the country's Labour Union Movement said the number of dead might be as high as 15, with 60 injured in riots continuing into this week.

The violence illustrates the problems facing North African gov-

ernments when they try to abolish their long-established policy of subsidising staple food prices as a tool against inflation and to preempt higher wage claims.

In riots in Casablanca in June, 1981 around 200 people died after the Moroccan government raised food prices.

In Tunisia, the planned increase in the price of cereal products was made public some time ago, but shoppers on New Year's day were still shocked to find bread had gone up by about 110 per cent. The increase also applied to semolina, the basic ingredient for the traditional national dish, Couscous.

The Tunisian government said steps would be taken to alleviate hardships caused to the poorest. Diplomats said the government

had been mistaken to announce the rises before publicising details of assistance, and that its raising prices in a single move had shocked many Tunisians.

The Morocco, state subsidies were running in 1983 at about \$250 million a year but they were raised food prices.

The riots centred on Kasserine, 200 kilometres from Tunis and on Gafsa, further south in the country's depressed southwest.

According to official figures, unemployment in the western province is between 21 and 25 per cent of the work force. If a man works one day in 15 he is officially

considered employed.

Tunisia enjoys a relatively high Gross National Product (GNP) per capita — nearly \$1,300 in 1983 — in comparison with other Third World countries. But the wealth is unevenly distributed among its regions.

The northern area around Tunis, the prosperous central agricultural plain of the Sahel and the busy port of Sfax in the south are relatively rich but the west and southwest, along the Algerian border, are less developed.

The poor regions also lean further left than the rest of the country, which has been ruled since independence by the Socialist Destour Party of President Habib Bourguiba, and the phosphate-mining city of Gafsa has been a scene of past unrest.

The government has been trying since last summer to reduce bread subsidies, which cost it about \$300 million last year.

In October former Economy Minister Abdelaziz Lasram resigned after disagreeing with the prime minister that the rises should be made all at once, political sources said.

The subsidies are mostly paid to flour mills to compensate for the difference between the price of grains bought on the world market and the arbitrarily low price of flour fixed by the government. A smaller part of the subsidies is paid to bakers.

This policy of maintaining bread at an artificially low price has several drawbacks. Algerian and Tunisian government officials say,

the government has been trying since last summer to reduce bread subsidies, which cost it about \$300 million last year.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:05 Children Programme
18:30 We Are Moving
18:55 Sherlock Holmes
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Programme on Agriculture
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:35 Local Programme
22:10 Local Programme
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:35 Local Programme
22:10 Local Programme
23:10 News in Arabic

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM, 5.99 MHz FM
purity on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Oh! Mother
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Oh! Fanoures
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Over a Cup of Tea
19:00 Music
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

634, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 W average 06:40
Book Choice 06:45 Financial News
06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News
07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30
What's New 07:45 The World Today
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Talking about
Music 09:00 World News 09:05 24
Hours: News Summary 09:30 Let There
Be Drums 09:35 Report on Religion
10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections
10:15 People's Choice 10:30 Frank Muir
Goes Into 11:00 World News 11:05
British Press Review 11:15 The World
Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look
Ahead 11:45 Anything for a Laugh
12:15 Rock Back the Clock 12:30 A Closer
Look 12:50 Recording of the Week
13:00 World News 13:05 News about
Britain 13:15 Something to Show You
13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek
14:15 Nature Notebook 14:25 The Farming
World 14:45 Sports Round-up
15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours:
News Summary 15:30 Personal Impact
16:05 Edward Elgar: The Making of a
Composer 16:15 Report on Religion
16:30 Frank Muir Goes Into 17:00
Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00
World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15
Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today
19:00 World News 19:05 Monitor 19:25
New Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45
Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30
Top Twenty 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock
Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45
Arthur Rubinstein 22:00 World News
22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30
The British Lectures 22:50 Network U.K.
23:15 Short Story 23:30 Jazz for the Askin'
ing 24:00 World News 00:05 The World
Today 00:25 Book Choice 22:30 Financial
News 00:40 Reflections 00:45
Sports Round-up 01:00 World News:
Commentary 01:15 Something to Show
You 01:30 Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9365, 11740,
11925 K 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the
radio; news summaries; daily business
report; sports and medicine; sports
reports; VOA editorial and world and
U.S. opinion roundups; analysis; view-
points; features 17:00 News 17:30 Spe-
cial English News and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Senegalese Tapestries at the Jordan National Gallery.
* Saudi and Gulf art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

* "The Hustler" at American Centre at 8:00 p.m.

VIDEO

* French video programme starts at 4:30 p.m. at French Cultural Centre

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel: 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre library 41521
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37749
Goethe Institute 44993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44213
Spanish Cultural Centre 24649
Turkish Cultural Centre 34777
Hays Arts Centre 665191
Human Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 343555

MUSEUMS

Follere Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also costumes from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51761.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Gavi part (Canaanite Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays). 41 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists

from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century oriental artists. Amman, 1400, 1400, 1400. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Museum's Memorial Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 661210.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37160.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 130 p.m.
Lions Palestine Club. Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 130 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 130 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 24591
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwadih, 37441
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41550
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751

PRAYER TIMES

06:13 Fajr
06:38 (Sunrise) Shuray
11:40 Dhuray
14:25 'Asr
16:44 Maghreb
18:09 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by the Air Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 53251, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (EA)
07:15 Karachi (IA)
08:05 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:40 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:05 Muscat, Bahrain (KLM)
14:05 Cairo (EA)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
14:50 Baghdad (IA)
15:00 Jeddah (Saudi)
15:30 Baghdad (IA)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Bangkok (RJ)
17:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:50 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:30 Beirut (MEA)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:40 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:05 Cairo (EA)
20:05 Frankfurt, Larnaca (KAC)
20:05 Zurich, Athens, Damascus (SR)
00:30 Cairo (EA)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)
01:05 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Larnaca, Frankfurt (LH)
06:55 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:00 Cairo (EA)
08:30 Athens (OAG)
08:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PA)
09:05 Beirut (MEA)
10:05 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam (KLM)
12:00 London (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:05 Cairo (EA)
15:40 Kuwait (KAC)
15:50 Baghdad (IA)
16:30 Jeddah (Saudi)

Low/high temperature in deg. C
Amman 6-14
Agaba 10-21
Uzer 4-15
Jordan valley 10-21
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 11, Agaba 14, Humidity readings: Amman 81 per cent, Agaba 49 per cent.

18:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:40 Jeddah (RJ)
20:05 Cairo (EA)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:05 Cairo (EA)
02:05 Cairo (EA)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in fils
Belgian franc 66.6/ 67
Dutch guilder 120.7/ 121.4
Egyptian pound 321/ 325
French franc 44.7/ 44.7
Irish dollar 367/ 372
Italian lire (for 100) 22.3/ 22.5
Japanese yen (for 100) 160.2/ 161.2
Kuwaiti dinar 1266/ 1270
Lebanese pound 2.5/ 6.8
Omani rial 1066/ 1076
Qatari rial 101/ 102
Saudi riyal 105.9/ 106
Swedish crown 40.2/ 46.5
Swiss franc 16.9/ 17.5
Syrian lira 78.7/ 79.7
UAE dirham 100.8/ 101
U.K. sterling pound 536.3/ 539.5
U.S. dollar 371/ 373
West German mark 135.6/ 136.4

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:
It will be cloudy, with light and variable winds which will be gradually changing to northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Low/high temperature in deg. C
Amman 6-14
Agaba 10-21
Uzer 4-15
Jordan valley 10-21
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 11, Agaba 14, Humidity readings: Amman 81 per cent, Agaba 49 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 103, 75111
Fire, fire, police 104
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 2200-6
Police rescue 102, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 34141
Traffic police 56304
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 7125-X
Queen Alia Int. Airport 108, 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 81381-332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 42804
Akelah Maternity, J. Amman 42862
J. Amman Maternity 36140
Malhas, J. Amman 66171-2
Palestine Sheraton 66171-2
Shamsan Hospital 660131
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Musaher Hospital 66722-9

The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66164
Italian, Al-Muhayreen 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marja 61611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wa'el Al Khateb 675035

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple (Double Red) 480-490
Apple (Golden) 480-490
Apple (Starline) 480-490
Apple (Smith) 480-490
Apple (local) 220-180
Bananas 270-230
Bananas (Mekintar) 250-200
Beans 60-40
Cabbage 60-40
Cauliflower (white) 220-170
Cucumber (large) 220-170
Cucumber (small) 220-170
Dates 180-150
Eggplant (large) 180-150
Eggplant (small) 180-150
Figs 180-150
Garlic 360-320
Grapes (white) 700-600
Grapes (black) 700-600
Grapefruit 110-80
Guava 400-300
Lemon 120-100
Marrow (large) 80-50
Marrow (small) 140-110
Melon 150-120
Olives 160-140
Onion (dry) 350-200
Okra 150-100
Oranges (Abu Surra) 250-180
Oranges (Shammas) 170-140
Pears 250-200
Pepper (sweet) 150-100
Pepper (hot green) 220-160
Potatoes 300-250

Handwritten note: 10/1/84

Hassan, Duke of Gloucester to open exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Duke of Gloucester will open an exhibition on Islamic architecture scheduled to be held in London on Jan. 23, according to a story published Monday in the daily *Sawt Al Shaah*.

The exhibition is being organised by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Arab Chambers of Commerce and other concerned Arab and British institutions.

The exhibition will include various aspects related to the development of the art of old and modern Arab architecture.

Crown Prince, premier pay visits to Balkaz family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday evening visited the Balkaz family home and conveyed them his condolences on the death of their son Walid Jamal Balkaz, an official in the Jordanian embassy in Madrid who was killed by an unknown gunman Thursday.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran also visited the Balkaz family Monday evening and extended his condolences.

Municipality inefficiency caused Zarqa committee head to resign

ZARQA (J.T.) — A Zarqa Municipality source said inefficiency of the municipality managerial staff and lack of laws and regulations facilitating its renewal and activation are among several main reasons that have led to the resignation of the head of the Zarqa municipal committee, Dr. Nofan Al Hmoud, the Jordanian daily *Sawt Al Shaah* said Tuesday.

Lack of financial resources to provide for vital and essential municipal services for city residents of over 400,000, delay in paying their due financial commitments and fees by residents have also made it extremely difficult for the municipal committee to carry out its responsibilities, the source told *Sawt Al Shaah*.

Jordan issues bibliography of settlements

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Geographic Centre has issued a bibliography of Israeli settlements up to mid-1983, according to the Jordanian daily *Al Dussour*.

The settlements have been indexed in an alphabetical order with the name of the settlement, the name of the Arab village or town it has replaced and information on the history and administrative status of the settlement. The bibliography will be constantly reviewed for follow-up purposes.

Centre's documents show that the Israeli settlement drive intensified and settlements increased in number over the period of Menachem Begin's premiership of Israel. The documents also indicate that the number of settlements established between 1967 and 1977 was 47, whereas the number increased to 149 by mid-1983 in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The figure does not include 16 settlements set up in the occupied Jerusalem area.

Three settlement belts have been established in the West Bank on military bases, and expropriation of Arab farming land has been the main source of building land for these settlements, *Al Dussour* report says.

Amman revenue target for '84 set at JD 20m

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said that Amman Municipality's revenues during 1984 will amount to JD 20 million. He announced this Tuesday morning during a meeting held with NCC Speaker Suleiman Arar and NCC members.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that the municipality will do its best to facilitate procedures pertaining to citizens' services. He then answered questions of the NCC speaker and members on a number of matters relating to the numbering of houses, organisation and construction violations.

Later, he accompanied Mr. Arar and the NCC members on a tour which took them to Jabal Amman, Wadi Abdoun, Nazzal, Ras Al Ain, Ashrafeyeh, Wehdat, Manara, Nasr, Hamlan, the Equestrian Club area, South and North Marka, Mahatta, Hashimi, Nuzha and downtown. They inspected the projects undertaken by Amman Municipality.

Municipality suspends decision

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Amman Municipality source said a previous decision by the municipality making it necessary for buildings of over three storeys to obtain a Royal Scientific Society (RSS) certificate signifying that their plans meet safety requirements is to be suspended for two months. The decision required that the plans should be approved by the RSS to guarantee local safety standards are provided for in the construction plans, the Jordanian *Al Rai* daily said Tuesday.

The municipality will reconsider the decision during the coming two months and discuss the various aspects of the issue with related bodies to arrive at a suitable formulation of the issue, the source said.

Citizens building new houses will not be asked to submit any documents as the new arrangement will only concern architects and planning offices, he added.

Gulf, Saudi art exhibit at RCC ends Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday (Jan. 5) will be the last chance to see an exhibition of works from the artists of Gulf states, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain which has been on show at the Royal Cultural Centre since Dec. 24, an extensive display ranging from pen and ink sketches to portraits, impressionistic seascapes and ceramics.

The latter, particularly the shell-like forms of Mohammad Yousef, Mahmood Hassan's ceramic boxes whose smooth sides are punched with a series of sophisticated shapes, and Salim Jouar's spheres with their interesting facets, reminiscent of the earlier work of our own Mahmood Taha, are amongst the most attractive works at the exhibition. Amongst the many good oil paintings the work of two artists stand out — the lovely coastal landscapes with their gentle colours and verticals of Farid Saoud Bokies and Abdullah Al Mahrikh's three marvellous old men with their toothless grins who are "Laughing at Destiny".

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan has decided to increase the working hours of its staff by one hour a day. According to the new system the bank staff will work until 3 p.m., a bank spokesman said.

Archaeological trips to Jordan Valley planned

AMMAN (J.T.) — Archaeology enthusiasts have the opportunity this month to learn more about ancient sites in two very different environmental zones of Jordan. Dr. Khair Yassine of the University of Jordan will lead a field trip of the Friends of Archaeology to the Jordan Valley sites of Deir Alla, Tell Mazar and Tell Saadiyyeh, on Jan. 20, departing from the Department of Antiquities' registration centre at 8:30 a.m. Related to this trip will be a visit on Jan. 21 to the University of Jordan Archaeological Museum at 10:00 a.m.

On Jan. 23, the Friends of Archaeology hold their annual meeting at the British Council at 6:00 p.m., including an address by their president, Mr. Raouf Abu Jabr, and a slide lecture by Dr. Ghazi Bishah on the frescoes of "Zast Amra".

More information on these activities can be obtained from Mrs. Theresa J. Ogilvie 142467 or Mrs. Carol Bollinger 1812589, who can also take bus reservations for the Jordan Valley field trip.

People reporting to the Ministry of Finance with petitions stating that they do not have a TV set at home are so few that you tend to believe almost everything is actually equipped with a TV set and that collecting TV fees with electricity bill is not such a bad idea after all.

But then again some might say that many people who do not have TV sets at home never go through the trouble of procedures to recoup what they have paid; while others do not know the procedures at all, which is all to the advantage of the government's treasury.

More TV owners

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Finance TV Revenue Section in 1981, 162 citizens reported to the Ministry claiming they do not have TV sets. In 1981 the figure declined to 112 while in 1982 only 107 citizens reported.

Asked why those extra fees were imposed on citizens in the first place, Mr. Gammoh said that people should not keep enjoying various entertaining and informative programmes broadcast on Jordan Television without paying. When one goes to the theatre for entertainment one is expected to pay for a ticket, he concluded.

The indiscriminately imposed TV licence fees on all electricity subscribers in the country, fair or not, is a question that somehow remains to be answered.

JD 522,000 revenues

As an example for revenues of

Amman water authorities say 45% of drinking water wasted

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) will this year implement sewerage projects in the northern, southern and western parts of Amman at the cost of JD 7.5 million, according to AWSA Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani.

He said one of these projects will carry out at several sites. These are Um Al Summaq, Prince Rashed, Baider Wadi Seer, Customs officials housing estate and Mari Al Hamam and Quesmeh districts.

This will cost JD 5 million; the other, estimated at JD 2.5 million, entails laying sewer pipes at Wadi Al Marbat, Jabal Al Hashimi and downtown. They inspected the projects undertaken by Amman Municipality.

He appealed to house owners to have these faulty pipes replaced and new ones laid in such a way

him. Jabal Nuzha, Marka and Wadi Nasr.

This month two tenders will be announced for the implementation of these projects which will be completed in November, Mr. Kilani said.

Mr. Kilani, who was speaking in an interview with the daily *Al Dussour*, referred to the drinking water problems in the capital. He said that the water metres count only 55 per cent of the total water consumption. The rest is leaked away and AWSA never recovers any of its cost.

At present AWSA is in contact with the World Bank to despatch a special team to Amman to try and find a solution to the problem, Mr. Kilani said.

According to him, much of the pumped water runs through worn out pipes that carry water to homes and these pipes are mainly responsible for the loss of water

Arbor Day celebrations will be held on Jan. 15

By Ziyad Al Shilleh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arbor Day celebrations will be held in Jordan on Jan. 15 under Royal patronage in the grounds of Al Fateh Mosque at Mahatta in Amman.

The mosque built in 1933 is regarded as one of the oldest monuments in the city. At the same time other Arbor Day celebrations will be held in other parts of the country.

According to the director of Afforestation at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ghaleb Abu Arabi, the ministry's nurseries have produced three and a half million tree saplings to be planted during the celebrations. Some of these saplings have already been distributed to farmers whose lands depend on rivers and underground water sources for irrigation, Mr. Arabi said.

Free saplings will be distributed to schools, sports clubs and other institutions shortly, he added. According to Mr. Arabi, nearly a million saplings have been placed at the disposal of directors of agriculture in various governorates for this purpose.

These saplings are of 35 strains but mostly are forest trees which have been found very convenient for growing in Jordan, Mr. Arabi said. The Ministry of Agriculture will in addition make a gift of half a million saplings to neighbouring Arab countries.

Although these saplings cost 100 fils each to produce, they will be distributed free to the public, and it is hoped that all citizens will take every possible precaution to protect these trees from any harm, Mr. Arabi said.

3rd food supply complex to be built Irbid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply will build a food-supply complex in Irbid, northern Jordan, in the first half of this year, according to Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub.

He said the complex will include a 50,000-tonne grain silo, 200-tonne cold stores for meat, vegetables and fruit, an automated bakery which can produce up to 6,000 loaves an hour, warehouses that can store up to 30,000 tonnes of various commodities, offices, car parks, power generators and stores for water and fuel as well as other facilities.

With the completion of the new project the ministry will have built three such complexes in the country make available food supplies that can last for months, the minister said.

One of these complexes is located in Aqaba, southern Jordan, the other in Jweidah, in the central region of the country, and the new project in Irbid is the third complex, he explained.

According to the minister, the Irbid complex will be set up on 250 dunums not far from Yarmouk University.



Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani

that they can be inspected from time to time and so avoid waste of more water, Mr. Kilani said.

6,000 homes linked

According to him, almost 80 per cent of the capital's homes are now linked to public sewers, and in the past year AWSA linked 6,000 homes to the main sewers.

In reply to a question about the exorbitant water bills which sub-

scribers are sometimes requested to settle, Mr. Kilani said that AWSA receives comparatively very few complaints — one thousand out of 70,000 subscribers every three months.

Those who complain often forget that they consume a lot of water in the summer and they also forget that they water their gardens and neglect to fix faulty water cisterns and pipes, Mr. Kilani pointed out.

'Best water meters'

As for water meters, they are the best that can ever be found, he explained, and denied that those meters could ever be the cause of excessive consumption, Mr. Kilani said.

In summer, the rate of water consumption increases by 30 to 40 per cent over winter time and almost 100,000 cubic metres of water are pumped daily to various parts of the capital around the clock, according to Mr. Kilani.

AWSA plans to replace the old mains in Amman with a new network at the cost of JD 300,000 and this will take place during the current year, Mr. Kilani added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

500,000 visit Jordan pavilion

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Jordanian pavilion at the Baghdad International Fair was visited by about 500,000 Iraqi citizens over the duration of its opening period which ended Tuesday. Pavilion Director Mohammad Al Naser said all those who had visited the Jordanian wing had expressed admiration and appreciation of the high standard of Jordanian industrial products. They also praised the progress achieved by Jordan in various fields.

Yarmouk University budget JD 14.115m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University's 1984 fiscal budget is JD 14.115 million according to a spokesman for the university's Royal Commission which endorsed the budget. He said that the new budget's recurrent and other expenses amount to JD 8.262 million. Capital expenses including buildings and installations would cost JD 4.845 million and the rest are allocations for covering the cost of transferring installations and other facilities from the university's temporary site to the permanent site.

University of Jordan exhibits books

AMMAN (Petra) — The first Arab and international book exhibition opens at the University of Jordan library Wednesday. The ten-day exhibition, to be opened by the University President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, includes the latest Arab and foreign books and encyclopaedias dealing with various specialised scientific subjects.

Giscard d'Estaing due in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing is due in Jordan in two days' time for a two-day private visit. The Jordanian daily *Sawt Al Shaah* said in its Tuesday edition.

Amman, Valencia mayors in touch

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday received a cable from the mayor of the Spanish city of Valencia, Mr. Ricardo Casado, deploring the recent attack on officials in the Jordanian embassy in Madrid. Mr. Casado expressed the support of the Valencia people to the people of Jordan and their cause.

Court sentences 20 merchants

AMMAN (Petra) — A military court has ordered twenty merchants to pay fines from JD 200 to JD 1,000 or to face 30 to 200 days' imprisonment. The sentences were imposed for violating the Ministry of Supply regulations. The military governor endorsed the sentences.

JD 29.1m spent on public works

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Public Works spent a total of JD 29.1 million in the course of implementing its projects in the past year, according to a ministry spokesman. He said that JD 3.1 million was spent in the last month of 1983 alone. The total value of projects undertaken by the ministry in the past year was JD 146.28 million, the spokesman added. He said that these were mainly construction of roads and various government installations.

Liquor stores' status reviewed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Internal Affairs is currently reconsidering the status of stores selling alcohol in various Jordanian governorates, according to the Jordanian daily *Sawt Al Shaah*. The ministry has asked administrative officials not to renew licences for alcoholic drinks unless their owners obtain a special notification from administrative governors in these areas.

Awqaf minister attends Mecca meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kamel Al Sharif will take part in the ninth meeting of the world higher council of mosques scheduled to open in Mecca Wednesday. The meeting will study the report of the council's general assembly, discuss opinions and proposals of the members and will also specify the date for the next session.

Cabinet okays magazine's licence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet Sunday approved a license to Adnan Al Sabbah and Fayez Hamdan which allows them to issue a socio-cultural magazine entitled "Al Ethnein" (Monday) with Mr. Al Sabbah as its chief editor, according to a story published Monday in the daily *Al Rai*. "Al Ethnein" was issued a license in 1962.

Is it correct to link TV license fees to electricity bills?

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government found it convenient to collect home television licence fees by adding them to your monthly electricity bill, assuming that you are using electricity and assuming that everyone has a television set at home.

The truth is, in case you use electricity — which is more likely than not — and even if you do not have a TV set at home, you would have to pay JD 12 a year — whether you like it or not.

It is easier, safer, faster and cheaper to collect those fees this way, the director of the Jordan Electric Power Company, Mr. Mazhar Al Jundi, told the Jordan Times in an interview.

From our past experience and statistics, he said, it has been proven that few citizens were committed before to pay home TV fees out of their own volition; whereas now everyone is committed to pay because "in my opinion" he said, "everyone who has electricity at home, has a TV set as well. So, by adding the fees to the electricity bill, we guarantee to collect the maximum while at the same time keeping the cost of collecting fees to a minimum."

For those who do not have a TV set at home, Mr. Jundi said, they can always report to the Ministry of Finance with a petition signed by the district chief certifying that so-and-so does not have a TV set at home.

Before that, the person concerned can bring a paper from the Jordan Electric Power Company stating for how long he has been paying TV fees. After that the Ministry returns money paid by this person and sends a letter to the electric company to stop collecting fees from that subscriber. All those procedures can be carried out during the first three months of each year as decided by the ministry, Mr. Jundi added.

'Most efficient way'

"This is the best and most efficient way to collect TV fees. Whether it is fair for the citizens or not is something besides the point because the company is only carrying out a government law which has been proposed, discussed, approved and issued by the cabinet and there is nothing to argue about," Mr. Jundi said.

The TV licence fee law was first issued and implemented in 1971

at the time when each subscriber for electricity who owned a TV set used to pay those fees to the collectors allocated by the Ministry of Finance, which was apparently not practical.

In 1979 the government implemented new regulations in collecting TV fees by adding JD 11.5 to each monthly electricity bill collected by the Jordan Electric Power Company or any authorised electric company operating in the kingdom or persons producing electricity to subscribers.

The 1979 regulations were modified by the new law which has been in effect since June 1983. The new law increased the mon-

thly collected TV fees from JD 0.5 to JD 1. The annual revenues to the government's treasury from TV fees reached JD 800,000 in 1982 and will reach JD 1 million in 1983 according to Mr. Bassam Gammoh, the director of the TV revenue section at the Ministry of Finance Revenue Department.

Mr. Gammoh said that the Jordan Electric Power Company used to receive 111 per cent of the total TV fees revenue but with the modified 1983 law, the company now receives five per cent only. The rest of revenues all go to the government's treasury, he added.

JD 522,000 revenues

As an example for revenues of



A familiar face — assuming that you happen to own a TV set

MIDDLE EAST HORIZON

By Tara Bradford

Americans need to be told more

IN 1979, the renowned Palestinian scholar, Edward Said wrote in his book, "The Question of Palestine," that in comparison with the Vietnamese and Algerian liberation movements, "the Palestinian movement has not been characterised by violent factional struggles, where rivals vie with and attempt to liquidate each other."

In 1983, Palestinians killing each other in Tripoli over strategic or political differences or otherwise made Dr. Said's statement not so true and dealt a heavy blow, not only to the Palestinians themselves, but to their image and credibility in the eyes of the world.

As 1984 begins, Yasser Arafat and Al Fatah's 11-member central committee are huddled behind closed doors in Tunis, trying to decide not only which step to take next, but in which direction.

The act isn't right

IF it were just a question of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) saying "yes" to the Reagan proposals on the Middle East, and we would then recover the occupied Arab territories from Israel, Jordanians and Palestinians probably would not have waited until now to join the U.S.-sponsored peace process. But, unfortunately, the issue had never been as simple as that.

As we are still wondering what it really takes — and how long — to pave the way for a peaceful settlement in the region, it helps to take a look back and see how different today's situation is from the recent past.

Seen from one perspective, the biggest stumbling block to achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement remains that combination of Israeli intransigence and American mis-handling of collective U.S. and Israeli policies in this area. On the one hand Washington knows, but yet has to accept, that for the Reagan initiative to have survived there must have been enough American pressure on Israel to make the necessary concessions for peace — namely the giving up of the occupied Arab land.

On the other hand, the U.S. has to realise that, more than they have conceded already, the Arabs have nothing more to concede, and that is that.

In his Sept. 1 proposals of 1982, the U.S. president asked the PLO to sort of ignore its very existence and settle for what little he had to offer the Palestinians. It was an outrageous proposition, and had to be totally rejected by the Palestinians. Now what?

Another U.S. proposal implied that the PLO had to content itself with whatever form of self-determination, or more accurately the lack of it, the Americans and the Israelis had to offer the Palestinians. Again this was unacceptable, and we all saw what had happened afterwards.

President Reagan then ruled that not all Palestinian land belonged to them and that parts of it would have to be retained by Israel for "security" purposes. But what is in fact left of the land now? And how did the Americans manage to stop Israel from building more and bigger Jewish settlements on the West Bank?

Over 16 months have passed since we last heard hard facts from the U.S. president and his administration, and the Americans seem to be thinking that Jordanians and Palestinians might still give a "yes" or a "no" answer to their set of proposals. Is this period not long enough for the Americans to have said: Sorry pals, we do not think we got our Sept. 1 act right?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab Nation's true tragedy

IN HIS television interview Monday King Hussein underlined the fact that Lebanon's tragedy is part of the Middle East tragedy, which was caused by the Zionist occupation of Palestine. He said that all attempts to end the Lebanese crisis ended in failure because the original problem remains unresolved. There is no stability and no peace in the whole region and therefore Lebanon's problems will remain unresolved.

But for the Lebanese question to be solved there must be an end to Israel's aggression and occupation, and its defiance of the international community's will. For the whole issue to be solved the United States should honour its commitments to Lebanon and other parties in the Middle East.

In referring to the Arab League, King Hussein spoke about the Arab defence pact and said that the whole Arab League charter has to be put forward for discussion in the forthcoming Arab summit. The Arab leaders in King Hussein's view should show unanimity on the issues of concern to the whole Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Emphasis on unity

IN VIEW of the circumstances the Arab World is passing through, it was natural for His Majesty King Hussein in his television interview Monday to emphasise the relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. This relationship reflects the common interest and common goals of both peoples since they in effect form a united family.

King Hussein stressed the importance of maintaining the right for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to take its own independent decisions and its right to remain free of hegemony and domination of other Arab countries. Jordan supports the PLO because it represents the Palestinian people and its struggle for independence and freedom.

On the Arab front, King Hussein referred to the Iraq-Iran war which he described as a big wound bleeding away Arab resources. This war, the King said, would not have lasted so long had all the Arab states stood by Iraq. He also called on Arab states to work together for restoring Lebanon's sovereignty and end occupation and foreign intervention in Lebanon's affairs.

Sawt Al Shaab: Tasks for the Arab League

IN MONDAY'S television interview, His Majesty King Hussein tackled most issues of concern to the Arab Nation in a responsible manner, and expressed his views as to what should be done to handle them.

His views, coming at the outset of the new year, should open our eyes for the task awaiting us and the Arab League. King Hussein spoke about the Lebanese issue, describing it as a very complicated one awaiting solution.

East-West tension, fighting among Palestinian forces in Tripoli and Bekaa aggravated the situation, Jordan, the King said, is fully behind any solution that guarantees the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the complete Israeli withdrawal from that country. He also reiterated Jordan's total backing for Iraq which, he said, had been exposed to aggression; and also voiced Jordan's support for the PLO and its right to take its own independent decisions. According to the King, all the problems which the Arab Nation faces now should be tackled by the Arab League in a responsible manner and in a way that can best secure higher national interests.

other and to the countries in which they are resident."

Arafat's has been a tough job — hard to pacify the various Palestinian factions, definitely. But many Westerners fail to see how the differences that resulted in the fighting at Tripoli can be a serious consideration at this stage of the game. May I be so bold as to suggest the following letter might be typical of an American observer, puzzled by the PLO infighting?

Dear Palestinians, Re: the recent Tripoli tragedy, please delay your differences until after you have achieved your goals of restitution and national self-determination. When you finally have your independent state, then you can argue about your political leadership.

Of course, it is naive to think that a certain amount, in fact a great deal of mobilisation and agreement among various PLO factions must be reached in order to achieve the successes you seek. Yet for the time being, make a tremendous effort to put aside your differences, cease your internal squabbles and stop being so selfish.

Admit that what happened in Tripoli is perceived by the majority of people (particularly in the United States and Europe, where they are just beginning to distinguish

between terrorists and freedom fighters) as the height of stupidity. You have the same goals, you have suffered the same hardships for years and yet you are suddenly tearing at each other. Why? In the long run, killing each other is only serving the Zionist enemy. It's been said before, there are no victors in war, only losers.

Have your Palestine National Council meetings, your Reconciliation Commission meetings, your Executive Committee meetings; argue, scream and shout at each other, but stop short of the gun and devise a framework within which you can all work together.

And before accusing the United States of adding to your troubles, first differentiate between the Reagan administration and the American people. As Dr. M.T. Mehdi, secretary general of Arab People to American People, pointed out during his visits to Amman and Damascus last week, you must intensify your propaganda campaign in the U.S. to offset Israeli propaganda.

You see, lately you have received particularly "bad press" in the United States. When we see you killing each other in Tripoli over what may be very important differences to you (but seem ridiculous to us) this makes us think you have no

regard for human life. And if you don't care, why should we?

Why should we mobilise our efforts to make the American government stop sending \$15 million per day in military aid to Israel (other than obvious reasons that we need the money at home) when, apparently, internal conflicts matter more to you than Palestinian life? Though we are a sympathetic people, willing to listen to reason, you must understand the majority of Americans are Christians who believe "the Lord helps those who help themselves." And, to the Western eye, the events in Tripoli are perceived as terribly self-destructive, not only to the individuals killed, but to the very core of the Palestinian movement.

You must also understand that many Americans have never heard your side of the story. Almost everything they know about the Palestinians is derived from often one-sided media accounts. And let me tell you, textbooks in American schools leave a lot to be desired when it comes to accurately outlining the Arab-Israeli conflict. Most people reach university level before they hear the real Arab viewpoint — this is of course a big shock making us question many of the values we were taught in primary, elementary and secondary sch-

ools. We are traditionally big supporters of the "underdog" and greatly admire struggles for freedom and independence. And most Americans probably share the view that both Palestine and Israel have the right to exist, but not at the exclusion of the other.

If you think it is the responsibility of the U.S. to help you, for humanitarian or other reasons, then give us the chance. Admittedly, you have had some bad experiences with our government policies, due again in part to the very effective Jewish propaganda media campaigns and largely to the influential Jewish lobby in Congress.

But stop "trashing" the U.S. at every opportunity. Realistically, if you are going to make progress in your struggle for independence, you must convince the American people to insist that the American government stop sending military aid to Israel.

Dr. Mehdi is right when he says Arabs can change the rules of the game, if you can educate the majority of the American populace to the reality of your plight. But, like Mehdi says, you must utilise propaganda warfare which can obliterate the need for military action one day.

The word "propaganda" has

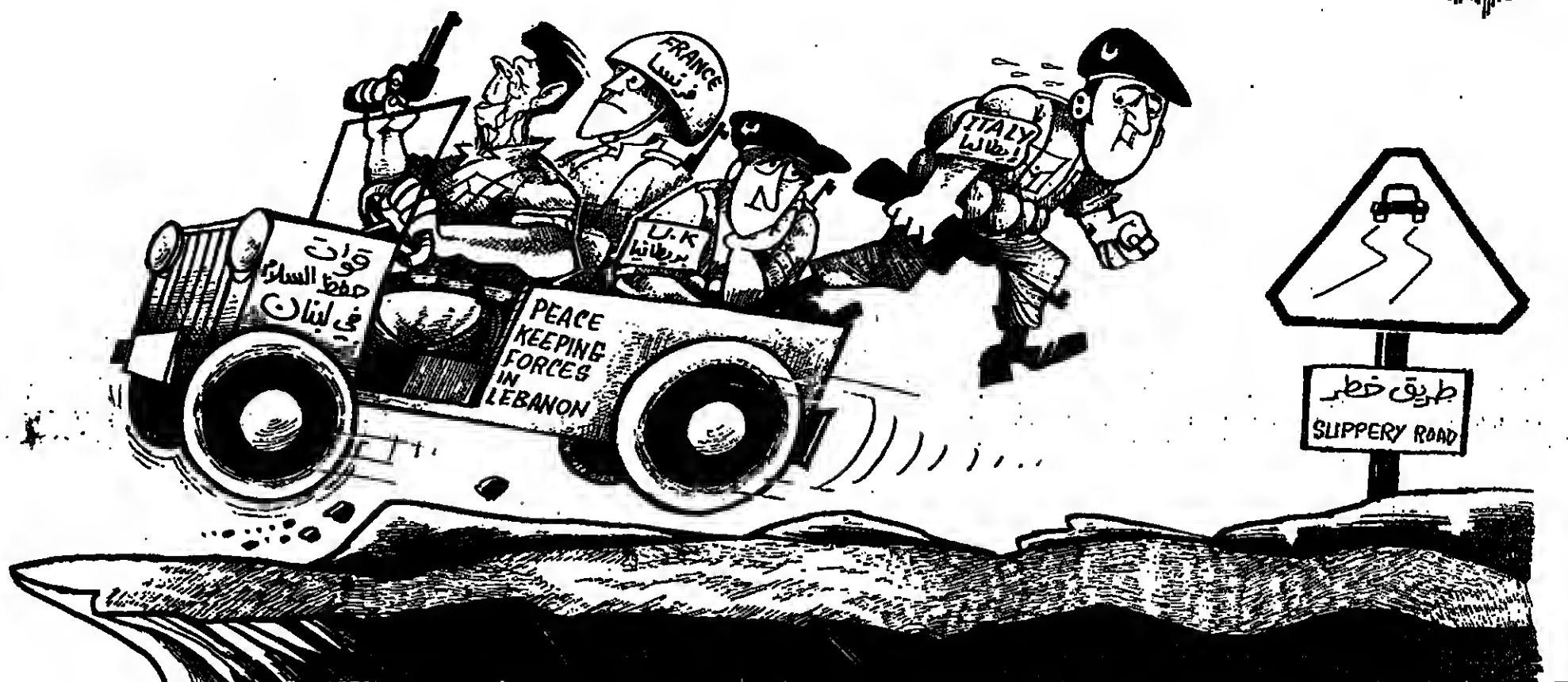
generally been perceived in America with a negative connotation, but all it means is the spread of ideas or doctrines by an interested party. The Zionists are masters at this, learning early on that the media can be an effective and powerful tool towards accomplishment of goals.

Sounds deceptively simple, right? It isn't. To wage a war of propaganda will take millions of dollars and vast amounts of human endeavour by Arab-Americans, Palestinians and Americans who believe strongly enough in your cause that they are willing to work for it.

As Palestinians, you boast of having some of the most educated and enlightened people in the world. Learn to use these assets to attain maximum benefits.

You are now at a crossroads in your history where every step is crucial. You are responsible for your own fate, not the Americans, although we can help you achieve your goals. There are still many of us who believe injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere and you have already endured more than your fair share of injustices at the hands of occupying powers.

Sincerely,
A concerned American



Poland: 16 years to make up for the loss

By Donald Forbes
Reuters

WARSAW — "If things are so good in Poland, why is the situation still so bad?" The government newspaper Rzeczpospolita asked about the economy as 1983 drew to a close.

Food price rises are on the way and the government has been driven to deny on television that it is going to reform the Zloty to take excess money out of circulation.

Even the good things mentioned by Rzeczpospolita were relative. Cynics said its boast that industrial output for the first 11 months of 1983 was 7.4 per cent, an achievement hardly matched elsewhere in the world, was less than candid.

It omitted to say that the comparison was with a period in 1982 when Polish industry was in collapse after the Solidarity Free Trade Union and martial law crises.

The drastic political and economic consequences of the confrontation between Poland's Communist government and solidarity supporters provide the clue to an answer to Rzeczpospolita's question.

Things are good because they have improved since the worst days of the union's challenge to Communism. The situation is bad because living standards are still 25 per cent lower since 1979 although the government says they stopped falling in 1983.

Optimistic projections

Tomasz Afeltowicz, president of the Polish Economic Society, said the country would need until 1990 to eradicate the last traces of the upheaval.

This target depends on assumptions that Poland's planners have made the right guesses about how the world's economy will evolve and that nothing unforeseen occurs like a new energy crisis.

It depends also on the government having more success in

1984 and afterwards than it has met so far in mobilising the country behind it.

The theory is that growing prosperity will gradually reconcile opposed Poles to socialism.

But even in the 1970s, when billions of dollars of Western credit helped transform Polish society, acceptance of Communism was never more than skin deep and it disintegrated at once when the boom ended.

Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski's government believes this basic resistance can ultimately be overcome by emulating Hungary's discreet mix of private enterprise alongside state control of major sectors of the economy.

Harder work needed

The immediate problem is to get the economy moving in order to start generating the prosperity which will, according to official thinking, provide Poles with the incentive to work harder.

A package of economic reforms introduced in 1982 has been working sluggishly and the government has been holding high-level meetings to bolster them.

Ministers have been chiding the nation for its productivity rate which is up to 400 per cent lower than that in other industrialised nations. Workers have been denounced for absenteeism and alcoholism and managers for their resistance to change.

A major effort has begun to educate ordinary Poles about their own economic responsibilities. Zygmunt Szeliga, a journalist who expresses official ideas, said on television:

"People do not understand our economic problems and their knowledge of economics in general is very scant. It is better now than in the past but it is still bad."

Promised improvement

A major effort is planned in 1984 to improve the living conditions of workers and to get more consumer goods into the still drab shops.

The government has promised to allow wages to rise by 17 per cent while limiting inflation to 15 per cent, thus allowing a rise in real purchasing power.

Resources will be diverted from heavy industry, which has traditionally devoured the biggest share of money for investment, to factories making things for people to buy.

Already, shoes and clothes are in fairly easy supply although Rzeczpospolita admitted that "people may justifiably express misgivings about quality, style, price and the range of choice."

The government hopes it will shortly be easier to buy refrigerators, washing machines, furniture and television sets for which there are long waiting lists.

It hopes also to start cutting food subsidies which in 1983 cost the economy \$2.3 billion but is handling the issue of food price rises in January with care.

Wester sanctions

The major problems next year will remain the Western economic sanctions imposed in retaliation for martial law. The measures have starved the economy of credits, raw materials and transfers of modern technology.

As a result of sanctions, the government has undertaken a radical change in pattern of trade.

Poland now does 60 per cent of its trade with its Comecon partners instead of with the West. Polish industry is being anchored more closely to Comecon requirements and markets.

Industrial projects like making buses which have previously been undertaken in cooperation with Western partners are now being accomplished with East bloc enterprises.

Foreign debts

Lifting the sanctions would ease the situation but not transform it in a major way. There is still the problem of Poland's \$23.5 billion debt to the West.

Poland now has to pay cash for much of what it buys in the West and many Western companies insist that it settles its debts on old purchases before they accept new orders, even when immediate payment is offered.

Almost important as an end to sanctions would be the lifting of the U.S. veto on Poland's efforts to rejoin the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which would give it access to cheap credit.

Because money is short, the target for industrial growth in 1984 has been scaled down to 4.5 per cent from 5.5 per cent.

Deep-rooted grudge

SOME ISRAELI experts say they have found that Hebrew textbooks are replete with negative stereotypes of Arabs and that the curricula in Israeli Jewish schools have done little or nothing to eradicate prejudice.

"What the kids are getting is a lot of stuff on Arab-Jewish wars and standard red-neck bigotry in order to prepare them for age 18 to go out and kill," said Benjamin Chetkow-Yanoov, who teaches social work at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

The dominant theme of reading books in the lower grades is war and patriotism, according to Daniel Bar-Tal, a professor of psychology at Tel Aviv University's school of education. He is conducting a research project on the matter.

"The bravery, the patriotism, the willingness to sacrifice lives, the heroism of Israeli soldiers" prevail in most of the stories used to teach Hebrew to children, Mr. Bar-Tal says he has found.

Relatively, there was a lack of reference to Arabs," he said. "When it was there, it was negative. Usually, they don't know how to fight, they are almost spies, they are willing to destroy Israel, they hate Israel. There are some stories, very few, in which they are portrayed as very cruel, almost inhuman." This, he said, prepared children for war but not for open-minded coexistence with Arabs.

Another expert, Alouph Hareven at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, says he sees silence in the curriculum as the main culprit. "For 35 years there has been no education at all," he said. "Pupils go through 12 years without a single hour devoted to the fact that every sixth Israeli is an Arab and that we live in a region where our historical destiny is to live with Arabs, in this country and on the other side of the frontier."

The point is not made, he said, that "99.9 per cent of all Israeli Arabs have never been involved in subversive actions against the

state of Israel."

There is no central governmental issuance of textbooks, according to Arie Shoval, deputy director-general of the Education Ministry.

"Anybody can print any textbook," he said. "The ministry does not impose any textbook on anybody," but merely lists those that coincide with a prescribed curriculum. "I'm worried and I'm concerned about what I've read until now" of the texts, he said.

Consequently, the ministry has recently decided to introduce, in the next few years, a curriculum focused on erasing stereotypes and promoting tolerance toward Arabs. Mr. Hareven and Mr. Chetkow-Yanoov are among those involved in the reform; they say they are disturbed by what happens in classrooms.

Mr. Hareven said he found it paradoxical, for example, that in 1970, the year Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt, a new high school textbook called "The Arab-Israeli Conflict" was issued. "When peace is signed," he said tartly, "you put out a textbook called 'The Arab-Israeli Conflict'."

The book was a fairly good history, he said, but he criticised it for failing to deal with what he called the "evolving pluralistic relations with the Arabs" — the Arabs who are Israeli, the Arabs who are under Israeli military occupation, the Arabs of Egypt at peace, the Arabs of Syria and other countries in a state of war with Israel.

Like other texts, the book promotes a fervent devotion to security. It preaches against sympathy for the Palestinian sense of homelessness, for example, denouncing "a certain soft-heartedness" among some Israeli Jews.

Another textbook, entitled "The Arabs and Islam," for use in seventh and eighth grades, shows Arabs only as seminomadic Bedouin tribesmen — primitive, violent and warlike — New York Times.

كلمة من الامل

Rain in '83: Acid or none at all

By Lloyd Timberlake

LONDON — Rain dominated the environmental news during 1983 — and threatens to continue to do so for some years to come.

In the industrialised nations of Europe and North America the rain was laced with sulphuric and nitric acid from the emissions of power plants, industry and cars. It damaged forests, killed fish and corroded metal.

In the developing nations of the South, the rain was clean enough. But there was very little of it. Some 150 million people faced starvation in Africa as drought triggered the second disastrous harvest in a row. The U.N. listed 22 nations, from Ethiopia to South Africa, as needing food aid desperately.

During 1983, scientific thinking on both acid rain and the causes of arid land food crises changed rapidly. But in both the North and South, politicians remain far behind the scientists.

Both the United States and West Germany have over the past decade questioned whether smokestack emissions were really behind the acid deaths of lakes in Canada and Scandinavia. The evidence was not conclusive; "scrubbers" for the smokestacks were too expensive, they maintained.

Damage by acid rain

But during 1983, evidence mounted that acid rain had damaged a quarter of all West German trees, from the Harz Mountains in the northeast to the Black Forest in the southwest. The Union of German Foreland Owners warned that "an ecological disaster of unprecedented proportions faces the industrialised nations of Central Europe."

Damage was being admitted even in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland, which have few enforced environmental protection laws. Britain remained the only major sulphur dioxide emitting nation which continued to maintain officially that science did not know enough about the problem, but even here there was growing evidence of damage to forests, fish and agricultural yields.

In July the West German government ordered that "scrubbers" be installed in all new power stations and that all new cars must have devices to lessen pollution. Neither of these moves is expected to slow the rate of forest death.

In the U.S., scientists contradicted the Reagan administration's official line on lack of evidence. A government task force reported that man-made pollutants were "probably the major contributors" to acid rain.

A National Research Council committee concluded that the occurrence of acid rain in the northeastern U.S. was roughly proportional to the average annual emission of sulphur dioxide.

But at year's end, the U.S. administration was doing little to limit sulphur and nitrogen pollution. And in Europe, while the 11-nation European Community was moving toward strict emission of fumes, scrubbers in old ones, E.C. officials fear this could raise electricity costs by 20-30 per cent and doubt that public opinion is ready for such an increase.

Northern nations were meanwhile pledging cash and food aid to the 22 African countries described by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as being "on the brink of starvation."

It has been 11 years since the end of the last major African drought: The 1968-73 Sahel disaster. Its lessons have been largely ignored. Of the \$7.5 billion in aid which poured into the area over 1975-80, only 8 per cent to improve the types of farming which supply the region's food.

Disaster during dry years

Yet Michael Glantz and Richard Katz of the U.S. National Centre for Atmospheric Research report that farming practices during reasonable years "end in disaster during the dry years." Alan Grainger, of Oxford University in Britain, agrees: "Drought triggers a crisis, but does not cause it. Overcultivation and overgrazing weaken the land, allowing no margin when drought arrives."

Yet when the FAO held its 22nd annual conference toward the end of 1983, there was little evidence that the politicians and U.N. administrators were listening to the scientists.

Sudan's President Jaafar Al Nimeri said that the desert was taking over his nation's arable land at the rate of five kilometres (three miles) a year on a broad front. Though Sudan suffers extensively from overgrazing and overfarming its fragile soils, the president did not connect this with his lost croplands. In the Sudan, he said, our motto is "agriculture and more agriculture."

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma listed the reasons for Africa's food crisis: Low and badly-timed rainfall, crop pests, outbreaks of rinderpest and other



Some 150 million people faced starvation in Africa as drought triggered the second disastrous harvest in a row (file photo)

animal disease, civil strife and concentrations of refugees. He did not mention basic mismanagement of agriculture.

Desertification expert Mohammad Kassas, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), says flatly that constraints in human society — chiefly rapidly growing concentrations of very poor people — "are hampering the natural capacity of Man to cope with changes in the biosphere" such as droughts.

He estimates that "desertification is now menacing the life-support systems of some 600-700 million people" over an

area larger than the U.S. and the Soviet Union combined.

Edward Pisani, commissioner with responsibility for development at the E.C., called at the year's end for a transfer of knowledge from meeting hall to the land itself: "If a fraction of the expenditure that has been made in the name of preparation, gathering and expert meetings had been spent on the land, perhaps some stones would have given way to a few trees."

For both acid rain and drought-triggered food crises, scientists have told the decisionmakers what needs doing. It is now up to the politicians — Earthscan feature

German forests are desperately sick and nobody knows why

By James Buchan

At first, they are just trees, stretching as far as the eye can see, broken up only by clearings for tiny villages ringed by fields.

A little closer, types can be distinguished. There are Norway spruces, which the English think of as Christmas trees: silver firs with grey bark, pines with red. A few larches stand out, golden as the sunlight; and there is the occasional beech.

Closer still, each tree is dying, in a different way.

An old fir shows the blue sky through its crown. Spruce branches droop wearily — what foresters call the "tinsel effect," as if overburdened by indulgent parents on Christmas Eve. Another has lost great strips of bark to beetles.

Saplings have turned yellow or have lost all but this year's needles and even those are deformed.

Some beeches have curious indentations in their leaves, as if they were struggling to turn into oaks. "It's like being at a graveside," says Mr. Christoph Leins, forester of the Allensiege area of the Black Forest.

The German forest, a priceless resource and at the very centre of Germans' notions of themselves and their world, is desperately sick and nobody is quite sure why.

A census carried out by foresters for the Bonn Agriculture

Ministry in the summer showed that 34 per cent of West Germany's woodland, which itself covers a third of the country, was damaged. Hardest hit are the conifers, which with the exception of the larch do not shed their needles annually.

Three-quarters of the fir population — a fairly delicate tree which grows primarily in the southern states of Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg — is sick. In Mr. Leins' part of the Black Forest there is hardly a healthy tree left. Spruces, the most valuable of Germany's softwoods and the bread and butter of the timber industry, are 40 per cent damaged as are the pines. A quarter of the country's beeches, the most common and valuable tree in central Europe, are unhealthy.

Across the border in East Germany, and above all in Czechoslovakia and Bohemia, the picture is not as well documented but is probably as catastrophic.

It is not simply the West German timber industry, worth about DM3.5 billion (\$1.3 billion) per annum, and the half-million or so private landowners, who are alarmed that prices will fall because of the foresters' drastic felling this year.

The entire population is up in arms.

A survey conducted in mid-summer by the Allensiege Ins-

titute revealed that 99 per cent of those asked had heard of *Waldsterben* — the death of Germany's forests. More of the respondents were concerned about the woods than about the Pershing-2 missiles which may one day be unleashed from amid them. More than 60 per cent were ready to pay a special tax to save the forest.

There have been inexplicable tree blights in the Black Forest before. What distinguishes this year's *Waldsterben* — or "Forest Damage of a New Sort" as it is more soberly known — is the speed and extent of the devastation. Even last year, a tree census, admittedly now criticised for lack of thoroughness, showed damage to only eight per cent of the country's woodland against today's third.

It looks as if we have crossed some sort of threshold of tolerance after which it is sharply downhill, says Mr. Ralf Burg, an adviser to the Greens Party in the Baden-Wuerttemberg parliament.

The key question is, why are the trees at Allensiege, miles away from any industry and in an area famed for the curative properties of its air, dying?

The blight, which began with the firs in the 1970s and has spread to the other species only in the couple of years, was at first ascribed to hot summers, above all the *Sonnenjahr* of 1976.

When succeeding years showed no let-up in the damage the theory of "acid rain" became current. This supposes that sulphur dioxide from industry, and nitrogen oxides — mainly from vehicles — mix with moisture and oxygen and precipitate as sulphuric and nitric acids.

This theory was attacked when trees growing on alkaline soil, as in the Schwabische Alb or in Bavaria, were also found to be dying at an alarming rate.

A battle royal broke out in the German scientific community. "Mycologists say it's lunguses, bacteriologists say it's bacteria, virologists that it's viruses," Mr. Juergen Schmidt of the Baden-Wuerttemberg agriculture ministry says. Economic interest groups, which are well organised in Germany, smoothly proposed that everybody should wait till the causes were known.

In a monumental report last March the Commission of Experts on the Environment rejected arguments that the plague was simply a matter of bad forestry, monoculture or drought and frost.

The Commission suggested that airborne material such as sulphur dioxide, the nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and photo-oxidising agents were the prime offenders.

They then left the trees exposed to secondary damage from the weather, bacteria or the bark beetle. "We have at least identified the ringleaders of the gang," Mr. Ulrich Lochmann of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of State says.

Even before the commission's report, the conservative parties had moved to take over the Green's ground. Mr. Lothar Spaeth, prime minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg, has since opened a new research centre into the problem and campaigned tirelessly at the Stuttgart EEC summit in June. The Bonn government pushed through a bill requiring all new power stations to be equipped with gas scrubbers to cut sulphur dioxide emissions by a third. The industry say this can cost up to DM1200 million per plant.

Meanwhile, Bonn has stuck its neck out by ordering that from 1986, all new cars must be fitted with American-style catalytic converters to cut out the nitrogen oxides — a condition for which is lead-free petrol.

Not to be outdone, the Social Democrats have transformed their last Transport Minister Dr. Volker Hauff, into an environment spokesman. And as for the Greens, Mr. Franz Untersteller in Stuttgart admits the other parties have caught up in their recognition of the problem, while saying the state and federal measures are wholly inadequate.

Industry is now worried, with the German Federation of Chambers of Commerce wailing appealing to the parties not to outdo one another to the detriment of the economy.

Germany cannot solve its problems alone. The wind that blows through Allensiege's wood has come from Alsace. "The French used to regard this as a German problem but they are coming round to the need for a European solution," says Mr. Lochmann, reporting on Mr. Spaeth's vigorous diplomacy over recent months.

Meanwhile, West Germany exports to France and East Germany only slightly less sulphur dioxide than it imports. The Bonn government intends to convene an international environmental conference in Munich, with participation from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Whether all this can save the Allensiege trees is open to question. "It's all been so quick," Mr. Leins says. "Too quick for natural selection of the robust trees."

Mr. Lochmann also raises a more chilling prospect: "Thank God, trees are more sensitive than human beings and have reacted first." — Financial Times news feature



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Australia's top trio star as Pakistan struggles in final test

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's three leading cricketers, Greg Chappell, Dennis Lillee and Rodney Marsh, all reached landmarks as Pakistan were forced to struggle in the decisive fifth and final cricket test here on Tuesday.

Chappell equalled the world test record of 120 catches on the day he announced his retirement from international cricket, while paceman Lillee and wicketkeeper Marsh both notched their 350th test victims.

The trio, who have been the major figures in their country's triumphs during the last 12 years, helped to dismiss Pakistan for 278 in their first innings. Australia were six wickets down to reply at the close of the second day.

Pakistan, who must win here to square the series 1-1, failed to take advantage of a good pitch and foundered against Lillee, who took four for 65, and fellow pace bowler Geoff Lawson, who grabbed five for 59.

Opener Mudassar Nazar provided the main resistance with a stubborn 84 as Lillee, the world's leading test wicket-taker, increased his haul to 351 and Marsh made his 350th dismissal.

Pakistan, 61 for two overnight after Monday's rain-hit first day, contributed to their downfall with indiscreet shots which were criticised by manager Intikhab Alam.

Intikhab said: "Javed (Miandad) and Imran (Khan) were out to poor shots and Saleem's (Malik) dismissal was made after another foolish shot."

The touring team quickly lost a wicket Tuesday morning when Lawson sent back nightwatchman Abdul Qadir to make the score 67 for three.

A gritty fourth wicket stand of 64 between Mudassar, who during his 244-minute innings reached 1,000 runs for the tour, and Miandad held up Australia until shortly before lunch when the latter fell to off spinner Greg Matthews.

Mudassar's painstaking effort ended soon after the interval when he edged Lawson and Chappell held the catch at second slip to equal the mark of England's Colin Cowdrey for most test catches, excluding wicketkeepers.

Eight runs later Imran gave an easy catch to Graham Yallop at square leg off Lawson and Pakistan had crumbled to 158 for six.

Pakistan were revived by a seventh wicket partnership of 96 between Zaher Abbas and Saleem, who decided after tea that attack was the best form of defence.

He reached his 50 in 92 minutes and the two batsmen lashed 15 off one over from Matthews.

Saleem went shortly afterwards for 54 when he mistimed a pull and gave Lillee an easy catch and the hostile Lawson his fourth wicket.

Sarfraz Nawaz went cheaply leg before in Lillee, while Lawson picked up his fifth wicket when Zaher gave Yallop another easy catch after making a determined 61.

Australia's pace bowlers had shown dogged persistence in hot conditions after seeing three chances dropped in the morning session, two by slip fielder Allan Border.

Bauer retains Australian tennis title

ADELAIDE (R) — American Mike Bauer coded a 10-year jinx of defending champions when he retained the South Australian Open tennis title with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir on Tuesday.

Bauer, 24, who beat Australian Davis Cup hero Pat Cash on his way to the final, is the first player to win the South Australian Championship in successive years since Alex Metrevel of the Soviet Union in 1972 and 1973.

The 19-year-old Czechoslovak, who defeated Wimbledon runner-up Chris Lewis, the top seed, in the quarter-finals, squandered his chance when he built up a 2-0 lead in the second set then immediately dropped his serve to allow Bauer back into the match.

Oosterhuis beats Twitty in Match Play golf

TUCSON, Arizona (R) — Peter Oosterhuis of Britain birdied the first extra hole to defeat American Howard Twitty in one of 28 first-round matches contested Monday in the \$1 million Tucson Match Play Golf Championship.

Most of the matches in this first event of the 1984 U.S. tour went according to form, but Bobby Clampett and John Cook were ousted by less highly rated fellow Americans.

Oosterhuis was three down to Twitty after 12 holes, but the California-based Briton woo the 13th, 14th and 16th holes to even the match. After they halved the next two, Oosterhuis won it with a 15-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole.

Mike Gove defeated Clampett three and two, and Barry Jaekel beat Cook two and one.

T.C. Chen of Taiwan was seven down after nine holes to American Mark Calcavecchia, but he surged back to even the match after 18 holes and then win it on the 21st hole.

Chen took three in a row starting at the 10th and also won the final four of regulation play.

Debele named African Sportsman of the Year

KINSHASA (R) — Ethiopian athlete Bekele Debele was Tuesday voted African Sportsman of the Year by sports writers from 27 countries.

Bekele, 20, won the World Cross Country Championship in Gateshead, England, last year.

In an oblique reference to the incident, Chappell said Tuesday: "I have few regrets. I made all my decisions with the best of intentions."

Windies primed for Australian tour

SYDNEY (R) — The 'New Generation' West Indies team flew into Sydney Tuesday primed for the next stage of their bid to regain the Crown of Kings of one-day cricket.

Fired by a recent 5-0 defeat of the Indians in one-day internationals and an equally impressive 3-0 drubbing of India in the test series, the West Indies effectively wiped out the bitter memory of last year's shock loss to them in the Prudential World Cup final at Lords, England.

The team opens its Australian tour with a one-day game against Queensland on Wednesday.

"Our team is still very much in the transition stage," said veteran captain Clive Lloyd.

"We are still in the process of rebuilding and trying out new players and working very hard not to repeat the mistakes we made back in the late 1970s when we lost several top players at once and suddenly found our ranks terribly light on experience," added Lloyd.

Lloyd said he and the more experienced members of the touring party, including vice-captain Viv Richards and manager Wes Hall, had impressed upon the younger players the need to adjust quickly to the change of pace in Australian wickets.

"The wickets in Australia are much harder and faster than in India and our young players in particular will find it difficult to adjust to the added pace," said Lloyd.

"Unquestionably that will be our most immediate problem."

Add to the fact Australia and Pakistan are two very good teams and you can see why there is no room for complacency — this will be a hard one-day series."

Five players in the 15-man West Indies party are making their first visit to Australia.

They are 31-year-old opening batsman Richard Gabriel, fast bowler Eldine Baptiste, 23, hard hitting right-hand batsman Richie Richardson, 21, fast bowler Winston Davis, 25, and giant 20-year-old off spinner Roger Harper.

At 1.96 metres Harper is probably the tallest slow bowler in international cricket. Manager Hall hinted that Baptiste would be the player to watch because he was ideally suited to the harder and faster Australian wickets.

Australian cricket captain retires

SYDNEY (R) — Former Australian cricket captain Greg Chappell Tuesday announced his retirement from international cricket.

The 35-year-old all rounder made the announcement during the fifth test against Pakistan in Sydney and said he would not be available for the coming one-day internationals.

"Chappell, who led Australia in 48 tests, made his test debut in 1970-71 against England in Perth. In 86 tests since then he has scored 6,328 runs — 69 runs short of Sir Donald Bradman's record for an Australian.

Yet Chappell is not a man to worry about statistics. "It's a privilege to even think of passing Bradman's record. If you are playing just for records you shouldn't be playing... catches and runs are not that important," he said.

Chappell marked his test debut in the 1971-72 series against England with a century — the first of many outstanding innings which were played in cool, composed fashion.

Chappell took over as Australia's captain from his older brother Ian in 1975-76, but his reluctance to tour in recent years has meant the leadership has alternated between himself and current skipper Kim Hughes.

Chappell's captaincy was marked by controversy in a one-day game against New Zealand in the 1981-82 World Series Cup when he ordered his brother Trevor to bowl underarm to stop the touring side scoring six off the final delivery to tie the match.

In an oblique reference to the incident, Chappell said Tuesday: "I have few regrets. I made all my decisions with the best of intentions."

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Dalglish injury could upset Liverpool's soccer cup challenge

LONDON (R) — Liverpool's hopes of lifting the English Soccer Championship for a record 15th time suffered a setback Monday when striker Kenny Dalglish was helped off the pitch and away to the Anfield treatment room.

The gifted 32-year-old Scot, who collided with Manchester United Defender Kevin Moran three minutes into the second half of their tough, 1-1 first division draw, left the field with a depressed fracture of the cheekbone and Liverpool's championship hopes might just have left with him.

Dalglish, who played despite a lingering stomach muscle injury, was clearly the inspiration behind the champions' first half assault on United and was denied only by some brilliant goalkeeping from Gary Bailey. But after he went off Liverpool, who went 1-0 up, through Craig Johnston after 32 minutes, struggled to find their touch.

United, who themselves had to regroup after losing defender Gordon McQueen with a leg injury in the 11th minute, were allowed back into the match and snatched a point with an 89th minute goal from 18-year-old Northern Ireland striker Norman Whiteside.

The loss of Dalglish, runner-up to Frenchman Michel Platini as European Footballer of the Year, from a Liverpool team widely acknowledged not to be playing at their best clearly presents manager Joe Fagan with his biggest headache since taking over this season.

"Kenny has already seen a specialist and the injury is a nasty one which will keep him out for several weeks," Fagan said Monday. "It is a big loss for us but we have to carry on and sort something out."

The draw kept Liverpool on top of the League three points clear of United, having taken 45 points from 22 games. History, and a run of nine wins from their last 14 League games, suggests that Liverpool will not surrender the title but will go on to become the first

club since Arsenal 49 years ago to lift the crown three times in succession.

In the last 12 seasons, only four clubs have led the first division on New Year's day and failed to win the League. It has happened to Liverpool only once in that time. But it has been a long time since Liverpool have met such determined and equally capable challengers as Ron Atkinson's United, who have now taken four points off the champions this season and beat them in the Charity Shield at Wembley in August.

Atkinson was delighted with the result. "I thought it was a very useful point to win," he said. "The conditions were difficult and we had to reorganise after McQueen went off in the first half. But the result keeps us alive and it is a great lift for us."

The result ended a fruitful last 10 days for both clubs with Liverpool taking eight points from their four-match Christmas programme and United six. But both sides will be looking over their shoulders at West Ham, Nottingham Forest and Southampton, who have all reaffirmed their title challenge in the last week.

Third-placed West Ham recovered from a 1-0 home defeat by Southampton on Christmas eve to take seven points from their remaining three games. But manager John Lyall will be well aware that total should have been nine after watching his side race into a 2-0 lead at Notts County on Monday before ending with a 2-2 draw.

Southampton also scooped eight points from their four matches. They drew 2-2 at home against Aston Villa on Monday, battling back from 2-1 down for the second time in two days. Steve Mvran — who scored both goals in the 2-2 draw at Arsenal on Saturday — and David Armstrong netted twice in the last nine minutes to stretch their side's unbeaten run to eight matches.

Earlier Steve McMahon and Gary Shaw fired Villa into the lead. But Brian Clough's former



Kenny Dalglish's injury — a big loss for Liverpool

European Champions Forest win the Christmas honours having taken nine points — their only defeat was against Liverpool on Saturday — and climbing from eighth to fourth in the table. Forest swept aside Luton 3-2 Monday thanks to goals from Gary Birtles, Steve Hodge and Nigel Davenport.

But if Forest are currently the team in form, the side with the biggest Christmas hangover must be Keith Burkinshaw's Tottenham. The Londoners have emerged from the last 10 days

with just one point — they drew at Villa and lost to Arsenal, West Ham and, on Monday, Watford — and have plunged from fourth place to 12th in little more than four weeks.

And after watching his side fight back from 2-1 down to level 2-2 before winger John Barnes sealed Spurs' fate from the penalty spot, Burkinshaw admitted: "At the start of the season I thought we had a good chance of winning the championship, but now we look a million miles away from it."

Trials, tribulations of the unhappy tennis star

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PARIS — The young man, hailed as a national hero just six months ago, buried his face in his hands to hide the tears and said he could not bear to live in his country any more.

Yannick Noah was on top of the world last June when he enthralled the nation by becoming the first Frenchman to win the French Tennis Open since 1946. But it has all turned sour for the sensitive 23-year-old player since then — so much so that he said he had thought of throwing himself into the River Seine.

Noah, however, remains afloat, though he has decided to flee France, hoping to find relative peace and anonymity in New York — a choice symbolised by the emerald green sweat shirt with 'Jets' emblazoned on the front he wore to face the press.

He was so distressed, it need have surprised nobody if he had bolted for the door, taken the lift down 21 floors of the plush hotel on the outskirts of Paris, run to the helicopter pad outside and taken immediate flight.

French commentators dubbed it a "suicide conference" and the daily Le Monde unsympat-

hetically called it "para-Noah".

The man who led France to last year's Davis Cup final against the Americans plans to move to New York in time for the Masters tournament there this month.

Noah's biblical namesake, who built an ark and assembled a zoo before setting off on his voyage to safety, was chosen to survive the wrath of God before floods engulfed his every living fellow.

This 21st century Noah will be content merely to dodge what he sees as the intrusion — even persecution — of the French press and the exalted status of a national sports idol who has had to say goodbye to privacy.

"What makes me mad is the articles you write. You say I'm a big head," he snapped at one questioner. But the tone was more sorrowful than angry.

"I'm not a martyr. I'm just going further away. It has become more and more difficult here. I don't know if going to New York will solve my problems but I'm floundering here. I even think of giving it all up," he said.

"I want to try a new experience. I don't know if I'll succeed but at least I will have tried. I want to take risks."

Tennis has dominated Noah's life since he was discovered in

Cameroun, his father's country, at the age of 11 by U.S. former Wimbledon Champion Arthur Ashe and sent in France to develop his exceptional talents.

His game reflects his natural exuberance. Enjoyment, he told children in a television programme screened last month, is the most important thing for a young player — and his speed and agility make him one of the most exciting players in the world.

Victory over consistent Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl in a U.S. tournament final in La Quinta in 1982 confirmed his class. But it was his French Open triumph at the Roland Garros stadium here last June which lifted him to super-star status in France and, ironically, marked the start of his troubles.

That same June he was suspended and fined \$211,000 for failing to turn up at the World Team Tennis Cup in West Germany the previous month.

Noah, as quixotic off court as on it, resigned from the Association of Tennis Professionals because he felt they had not given him enough backing over the suspension.

He was reported fed up with tennis and was correspondingly disenchanted with the attention

his every move attracted. "It is more important for me to win matches than sign autographs. But to win matches I must be calm," he said.

Peace and quiet — particularly peace of mind — elude him in France. "It is getting more and more difficult to put up with the pressure. The life I lead here does not interest me. It is hard," Noah said.

"In New York I can travel on the subway, walk in the street without everyone knowing who I am."

He also has sound professional reasons for moving in the U.S. in his quest to be the best player in the world. That ambition would be nearer fulfillment if he could win another major tournament on a different surface from the clay of France.

But Noah, his face fringed by the Rasta curtain of braided curls in which he styles his hair, was at pains to say he was not breaking with France for ever.

"My house is in France. My family is in France. My friends are in France," he said. His coach will go to New York with him. Yet, for now, he just wants to get away. "It hurts. I read all that's written about me. I might be wrong. But I don't cheat."

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Kremlin rejects altering labour laws

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet authorities have rejected proposals that the industrial working week should be extended to compensate for a growing labour shortage, the trade union daily Trud said Tuesday.

It said the government had ruled against changing the labour laws to allow the introduction of a 6-day week or the extension of the average shift.

At present most people work a 5-day, 41-hour week. Overtime is paid for Saturday and Sunday work.

Trud said the labour shortage was growing more acute because of a slump in population growth in the 1960's.

But it said the authorities were determined to make up for the shortfall by increasing productivity and introducing new technology rather than making people work longer.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union

will put more than 12,000 kilometres of new gas pipeline into operation in 1984, the newspaper Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya reported Tuesday.

The longest stretch is the 4,500 kilometres East-West pipeline carrying gas from the Urengoi fields in Western Siberia to West Germany, France and Austria.

Some gas began flowing through to France on Jan. 1, but the pipeline will not be fully operational until the spring.

The newspaper said other major gas projects due to be completed this year included 2 pipelines from Urengoi to the industrial centres of the Ukraine and on the Volga.

The newspaper also said the authorities intended to build around 10,000 kilometres of new roads this year, almost half of them in rural areas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ILO appoints Chinese in senior post

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Tuesday announced the appointment for the first time of a Chinese as an assistant director-general. An ILO statement said the post went to Mr. Jin Fuyao, 61, formerly a researcher at Peking's ministry of labour and personnel and deputy-director of its foreign affairs bureau. China in June last year returned to the ILO after a 34-year absence when the U.N. body voted to write off its debt of over \$36 million in unpaid past contributions.

Turkey's central bank chief resigns

ANKARA (R) — Turkish central bank governor Mr. Osman Siklar has resigned, his personal secretary said Tuesday. The move had been expected since the elected government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal took office last month. The resignation of Mr. Siklar, appointed governor after the military takeover in 1980, clears the way for the appointment as governor of Mr. Yildirim Akturk, a close Ozal aide, sources close to the government said. Mr. Akturk, deputy to Mr. Ozal when the latter was chief of the State Planning Organisation (SPO), headed the SPO from 1980 until summer 1982.

Kuwaitis may buy U.K. Petroleum

LONDON (R) — A London-based company controlled by Kuwaitis intends to bid £20 million (\$29 million) for an independent British oil company, the Daily Mail newspaper said Tuesday. In a front-page report it said Hayes Group, owned by the Kuwaitis and controlling 750 filling stations, wanted to buy U.K. Petroleum from the mining and property conglomerate Burnet and Hallamshire. U.K. Petroleum had 310 filling stations and was a major supplier of oil to British industry and the government's environment department for use at hospitals, schools, police and fire stations, the Daily Mail said.

U.S., China to sign trade pact

PEKING (R) — China and the United States will sign a new agreement on industrial and technological cooperation when Premier Zhao Ziyang visits Washington next week, diplomats said Tuesday. The pact will provide a framework for increased U.S. involvement in the development of Chinese industry, but will consist of a general expression of intentions rather than a legal agreement, they added. No further details of the agreement were immediately available.

ICI enters Saudi venture

LONDON (R) — Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) has entered a joint venture to produce polyurethane chemicals at a new plant to be built in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, a spokesman for the company said Tuesday. ICI's involvement will cost less than £2.5 million (\$3.6 million) but the venture, 40 per cent owned by ICI and 60 per cent by the private Saudi group, Basic Chemical Resources, is regarded as an important step for ICI's polyurethane operations. However, the spokesman denied British press reports that the deal was a first step towards establishing an integrated petrochemical operation in Saudi Arabia based on Sago feedstocks.

Arab officials to discuss aid operations

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — Finance ministers of Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia meet here Tuesday to review the performance of Arab funds and aid agencies. Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abul Khail said recently that Arab financial organisations had suffered many setbacks in the last 10 years.

Dock strike halts Casablanca harbour

CASABLANCA (R) — A dockers' strike has paralysed Casablanca harbour and about 30 ships are waiting to load and unload cargo, port officials said Tuesday. About 2,500 dockers stopped work on Saturday following a strike call by the Moroccan Workers Union. The union called a strike of unlimited duration in support of a demand for a 15 per cent pay rise and other benefits for temporary workers. In a statement, the union threatened to extend the strike to other ports if the demands were not met.

Nigeria loan repayment lifts bankers' trust

LONDON (R) — Nigeria's new military government Tuesday repaid on time the first \$50 million instalment on a \$1.9 billion bank loan, raising cautious optimism in the international banking community that it would honour the country's massive debt commitments.

But a spokesman for Barclays Bank International, agent for the loan, admitted that there was little firm evidence of the regime's intentions so far.

"We just don't know what the position is at the moment. There has not been any contact with Nigeria yet," he said.

2 agreements signed last year converted into a 3-year loan some of the massive trade payment arrears run up by the government of Mr. Shugu Shagari, ousted in a bloodless coup last Saturday.

The first repayment of principal, covering both agreements, was due Tuesday and some bankers had feared it might be delayed by the new regime or by the post-coup disruption in Lagos.

Barclays spokesman said authorisation for the payment had been received on Dec. 29, before the coup, and that no communication from the military regime had been received.

But he noted that, had it wished, the new government would have had time to cancel the authorisation before payment was formally credited Tuesday.

The Barclays spokesman added that the refinancing agreement had initially been estimated at \$1.6 billion, but that the actual figure was \$1.9 billion, comprising 1 agreement for \$1.4 billion signed on July 13 and another for \$500 million signed on Sept. 19.

Other bankers contacted by Reuters said they were heartened by news of Tuesday's payment, which appeared to back up a broadcast on Sunday by Nigeria's new leader, Major-General Mohammed Buhari, in which he promised "We shall do our best to settle genuine payment to which the government is committed."

Saturday's coup came shortly after Mr. Shagari announced a stiff austerity package for 1984 made necessary by falling revenues from oil, which provide more than 95 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange.

With oil exports running at around 1.3 million barrels per day, little more than half their peak 4 years ago, Nigeria has amassed foreign debts of \$15 billion and a backlog in trade payments of \$4 to \$5 billion.

For the past 6 months the West African state has been negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over a \$2.5 billion loan package to help cover these debts, and a Nigerian team was due to meet the IMF in Washington on Jan. 16 to finalise arrangements.

There has been no word from Lagos on whether the talks will go ahead, but banking sources said Tuesday's repayment tended to show that the military government would continue existing plans.

Meanwhile, oil markets Tuesday reacted calmly to the military takeover in Nigeria and the industry appeared wary of predictions that the coup might set off an oil price war.

Actual trading was thin in Western Europe as markets resumed after the new year break. But industry analysts predicted Saturday's coup would have little impact on crude or petroleum product prices.

They said comments by the Venezuelan energy that the takeover might spark a price war could prove more unsettling than the coup itself, although his analysis did not appear to have much support in the market.

General Buhari said Nigeria would remain in OPEC.

Traders said they did not think the coup would cause either a disruption of oil supplies or a change in Nigerian oil policy.

The analysts said a unilateral decision by Nigeria to raise its production was unlikely to solve its revenue problems as it would have to be accompanied by a substantial price cut.

They said other OPEC members would be sure to take Nigeria on, if it prompted a price war. The threat that Nigeria might end up exporting no more oil but receiving less money for it should be enough to convince the new military government to abide by OPEC rules.

The analysts said the new government would also be reluctant to take any unilateral action on oil that could undermine the confidence of Western banks with which Nigeria is negotiating to refinance large foreign debts.

One threat to Nigerian oil price stability — the prospect of a cut in British North Sea rates — appeared to have receded in recent weeks, the analysts said.

On the other hand, cocoa futures rose strongly to new 5-year highs in London trading Tuesday in reaction to the military coup in Nigeria, a leading producer, dealers said.

The price for delivery in 3 months, which climbed steadily last week to a 5-year peak, jumped Tuesday by the exchange's 44t trading limit to £2,057 a tonne (\$1.33 a pound).

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stocks closed generally easier in thin trading on lack of investment demand, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 3.2 at 772.5.

But life insurances showed gains stretching to 12p after press comment suggesting the sector will perform strongly this year. Pearl Assurance and Hambro rose 11p to 814 and 486 respectively.

Government bonds closed above the day's lows on cheap buying interest in a thin market. Prices were initially marked lower on the weakness of sterling. Index-linked stocks were around 1/4 point lower ahead of applications for the new rate issue.

Gold prices drifted easier but North American shares were mixed. Banks were unchanged from early mark-downs of around 5p. News Nigeria has made the first loan repayment on a \$1.6 billion refinancing had little impact.

Dutch-related companies Unilever and Shell gained 11p to 405 and 586 respectively on expectations that the Dutch stock market will perform strongly this year. Oils drifted quietly easier.

Burnet and Hallamshire rose 21p to 178 on a report in the Daily Mail newspaper that Hays group was making a £20 million bid for Burnet's petroleum subsidiary, but later fell to close unchanged on balance after Hays denied the report.

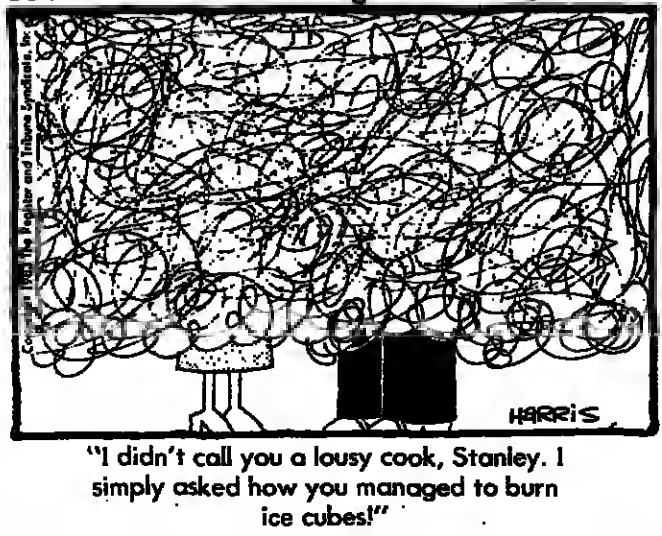
Tea shares firmed after the Indian government's export ban.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.435/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.245/53	Canadian dollars
	2.745/62	West German marks
	3.104/55	Dutch guilders
	2.146/71	Swiss francs
	56.04/08	Belgian francs
	8.394/10	French francs
	1668.00/1664.00	Italian lire
	231.72/82	Japanese yen
	8.155/116/81	Swedish crowns
	7.751/65	Norwegian crowns
	4.935/194/10	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	383.51/384.00	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENYAH

NURSP

YULIBS

DEMOAP

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A CACTUS WITH A PORCUPINE?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GLEAM TYING PANTRY SCHEME

Answer: How does a baby chick fit into its shell? — "EGGSACTLY"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is very good for you to wind up matters that have been in effect for some time and that require a wordy attitude and standpoint. The evening is excellent for being original and progressive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Talk over your future with a bigwig and you can be with friends later. You have a new aim that needs your undivided attention.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Come to the right decision about that new situation in the morning. Make that new contact of worth who can be helpful to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Complete business matters in the morning so that you can look into new interests after lunch. Make plans for expansion or travel.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) State your plans clearly to partners so they understand them and will cooperate. Be on the alert for some romantic pleasure.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get to work and meet with associates after lunch. Have a constructive talk with a co-worker.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get some special talent perfected early. Try to please your mate before stepping out with fellow workers. Establish good camaraderie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A situation at home may require your attention, so take care of it early. Handle any creative work with exactness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Handle outside affairs early. Do work accurately. Entertain guests at home in the evening. Make sure that all is in order there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Handle routine matters end then try to solve that problem that has been vexing you for a long. Go visiting in the evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take care of personal matters and then settle money problems in a unique way. Don't take any unnecessary risks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Formulate a plan for going after personal goals, then carry through with them speedily. Take no risks while driving.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Handle business affairs in the morning so that you can be with admirals later. Don't leave anything to chance.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who will learn old information that will help him or her to build a firm structure for the future and will study seriously to attain it, but will later be more interested in a unique way of making a big success. Teach patience.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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THE Daily Crossword by T. Richard Mora

ACROSS

1 Big birds

6 Hang-up

10 Man for all seasons

14 National bird

15 Cane

16 Judd

17 Hirsch

18 Indigo

19 Swoon

20 Western Indian

21 Photograph of a kid

24 Leprechaun

25 Pooking

27 Eggs on

29 Shot of rum

31 Chihuahua's bark

32 Incised carvings

36 Tether

40 Sullen

41 Praxilla's man

43 — and ahal

44 Eye socket

46 British navy brass

48 Protection against sickness

50 Sailing vessel

51 Tire out

55 Crested birds

59 Majors of TV

60 Hacked

62 61

63 Concerning

65 Mimicking answer

66 Exemplar

68 Condemn

69 Eya drop

70 — and alas!

71 Extremities

72 Eyelid

73 sore, ver.

74 Nook

75 So

76 Native of a Greek island

79 Aits

81 Stur

82 Gaseous element

83 Biblical king

84 Silence in music

86 Sheepish expression

87 Precise

88 Soft and smooth

89 One-horse carriage

90 German river

91 551

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1 DUTY

2 PLOT

3 ALICE

4 SPINNING

5 MATE

6 UTOPIA

7 STATER

8 CARROLL

9 HERONE

10 MILKY WAY

11 AMERICAN

12 COINS, ABBR.

13 CASH COIN

14 REJOICE

15 FEUDAL

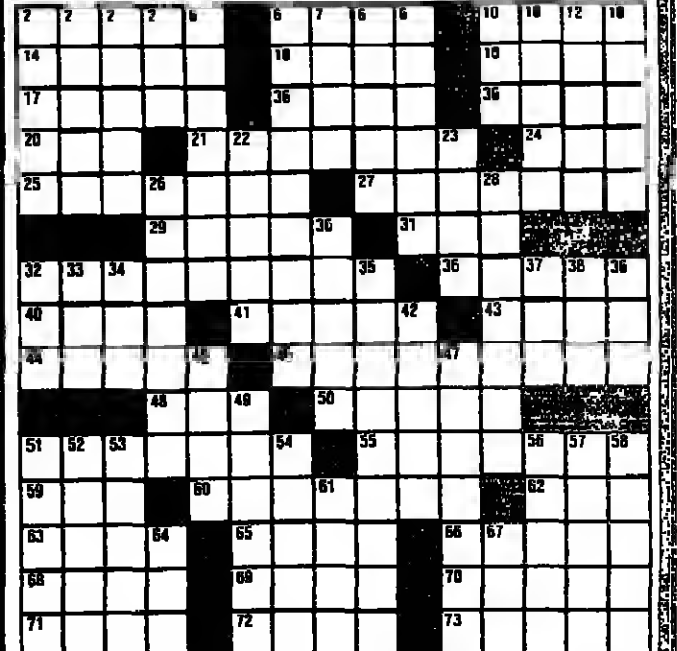
16 DOMAINS

17 GAY

18 DONAHUE

19 OF TV

20 551



Marcos to clean up government agencies

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos has said he will clean up certain government departments and agencies to weed out inefficiency and corruption.

The president said he had ordered the house-cleaning in "all sensitive government agencies and offices because some people there do not perform their jobs carefully."

In his statement Monday, he did not say when the clean-up would begin or what changes he had in mind. But they could involve a reshuffle of high-level officials, he said.

Informed sources said the Central Bank and the Tax Collecting

Bureau of Internal Revenue might be the first targets.

The bank recently admitted overstating by some \$600 million the country's foreign exchange reserves, which further delayed approval by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank of much-needed loans to meet current economic difficulties.

The Tax Department has been purging staff suspected of having

unaccounted wealth and several cases have been referred to special anti-graft courts.

Mr. Marcos said efficiency would be the priority and officials who had helped counteract the country's present economic difficulties would be promoted.

"The important thing here is to sharpen and hone the administrative and fiscal sectors of these institutions," he said.

In the drive against inefficiency and graft, he said, "We will file cases against those personnel who are found guilty and corrupt."

"We are going to be harsh on these people and we promise more heads will roll as the reorganisation gains momentum," the president said.

Salvadoran commanders hold emergency talks on rebel attacks

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador's top military commanders held an emergency meeting Monday following a string of spectacular guerrilla attacks on strategic targets, a senior official said.

The rebels started the New Year by destroying the only road bridge left across the River Lempa which divides the country. Two days ago they used mortars to flatten a brigade headquarters in the northern province of Chelatenango.

The army chief of staff, Colonel Adolfo Blandon, would say only that his field and staff commanders were meeting in San Salvador to analyse guerrilla strength.

Guerrilla-run Radio Veneceros said the attack on the heavily-fortified Cuscatlan Bridge, 70 kilometres east of here on the Panamerican Highway, was a strategic blow to the army's capacity for mobilisation and to El Salvador's economy.

It left only one railway bridge with one lane for vehicle traffic spanning the Lempa. Guerrillas destroyed the only other bridge

over the river in 1981. Residents said they found about 100 soldiers buried in mass graves dug by bulldozers after the attack on army headquarters in Chelatenango. Officers have refused to disclose casualties.

Three weeks ago about 1,000 guerrillas took a strategic communications post in the province of San Miguel and the army responded with a rapid counter-attack to flush rebels from their northeastern strongholds.

Western diplomatic sources said the rebels' latest attacks appeared to take the army completely by surprise, highlighting its poor intelligence network and hitting morale which was briefly boosted by the counter-offensive.

The army faces a tough campaign in the next three months in the face of guerrilla pledges to step up attacks on economic targets as a way of opposing presidential elections set for March 25.

"We will continue to increase our struggle before, during and after the electoral," Radio Veneceros said Monday.

The latest rebel attacks came

just after the army offensive in the northeast appeared to reflect a more aggressive field strategy by the 24,000-strong, U.S.-trained army following a major command reshuffle last November.

The reshuffle altered the entire staff and field commands, creating tighter coordination.

But Lieutenant-Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, the country's most respected commander, said the army could only retain the initiative by building up an efficient intelligence network using the civilian population.

LT-Col. Monterrosa, newly appointed to head the three easternmost provinces, said it would take months to build up mutual confidence with civilians to rival the guerrillas' intelligence system.

In his densely-populated country there are few areas where troops or guerrillas can move without being seen.

But the population, battered by four years of war, is reluctant to cooperate with either side and often fears the army more than the guerrillas, LT-Col. Monterrosa said.

Rebels launch air-strike on Nicaragua

MANAGUA (R) — U.S.-backed rebels launched an air attack on Nicaragua's Pacific port of Puerto Sandino Tuesday, the Defence Ministry announced.

It said an unidentified plane fired rockets at port installations but gave no details of casualties or damage.

The strategically important oil facilities of Puerto Sandino, 60 kilometres west of Managua, have been repeatedly attacked in the past few months by the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Forces (FON), operating out of Honduras.

On Monday, Nicaragua said 40 rebels died in an attack on the town of San Fernando, six miles from the Honduran border.

Cross-border attacks have raised fears of war between the two states. Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government has accused Honduras of sheltering and aiding the FON.

Between Dec. 27 and Jan. 1 there have been five clashes in the north of Nicaragua resulting in 125 rebel deaths, the Defence Ministry added.

It gave no casualty figures for government troops but said they had captured large quantities of arms and equipment.

Kabul begins distributing aid to quake victims

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan authorities have begun distributing food, money and clothes to families affected by the earthquake which hit the Hindu Kush Mountains on Saturday, state-run Radio Kabul reported.

The radio, monitored here Monday night, gave no estimate of overall damage but the distribution of overcoats and shoes appeared to indicate that at least some houses collapsed.

The quake, centered on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, has claimed at least 12 dead and 31 injured in Pakistan.

The official Pakistan Times Tuesday quoted another Radio Kabul broadcast as saying 31 people had been injured in the Afghan capital by the quake.

7 Soviet diplomats leave Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Seven Soviet diplomats and two officials left Bangladesh Tuesday after being expelled by the military government.

Five other diplomats returned to Moscow on Dec. 26 after military authorities ordered their expulsion for involvement in non-diplomatic activities.

Angola calls for urgent U.N. meeting

LISBON (R) — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has called for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss South African attacks in southern Angola.

The official Angolan News Agency Angop said Tuesday the request was made in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar dated Dec. 31 and handed over by Ambassador Eliseo de Figueiredo Monday.

President dos Santos said heavily armed South African forces including paratroops, tanks and helicopters were trying to push farther north in fierce fighting, having already engaged Angolan troops more than 200 kilometres north of the Namibian frontier.

"Wishing to prevent the war from assuming proportions with

unforeseeable consequences, which could endanger peace and security in the region, I ask your excellency to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council to take relevant measures," the president's letter said, according to Angop.

Angola has rejected South African claims that the offensive is directed against Namibian guerrilla camps of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which has been waging a 17-year-old bush war against South African rule in Namibia.

In his letter, President dos Santos said the attacking South African forces consisted of three motorised infantry brigades, four artillery groups equipped with 140 and 150mm guns, two battalions of paratroops, 100 aircraft and hel-

icopters and an unspecified number of armoured cars and AMX tanks.

Such a force could number up to 11,000 men. South African military analysts have estimated that more than 2,000 soldiers might be involved in a current offensive against black nationalist Namibian guerrillas.

Angop quoted an Angolan Defence Ministry communique as saying the invaders resumed their attacks on the towns of Cahama, Cuvetel, Mulondo and Calundo in the south of the country during the weekend.

The communique said the attacks were not against Namibian guerrilla camps, as South Africa claimed, but were aimed at disrupting Angola and preventing the consolidation of the revolution.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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SAFETY FIRST!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A7654

♦ Void

♦ KJ1094

♦ KJ4

WEST

♦ Q932

♦ KJ

♦ KQ76

♦ A109854

♦ 76

♦ 8532

♦ Q76

♦ 5

SOUTH

♦ 105

♦ J32

♦ AQ

♦ A109832

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

3 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♡.

When you have a trick to lose, it is usually right to concede it as soon as you can do so safely. Later may be too late.

After his featherweight opening, South simply rebid his clubs at every opportunity. With his great playing strength and control of every suit, North elected to gamble on a slam.

West led the king of hearts and ruffed in dummy. Declarer decided that the fate of his contract hinged on bringing in the trump suit

without a loser. He cashed the king and led the jack. When East failed to follow, declarer rose with the ace and tried to run diamonds. Unfortunately, West was able to ruff the third diamond, and he cashed a heart and the trump queen for down two.

Declarer can afford to lose a trump trick and still make his contract, provided he does not relinquish control of the heart suit. That can all be accomplished with a simple safety play.

After ruffing the king of hearts at trick one, declarer should lead the jack of trumps from dummy and pass it. That will guarantee the contract as long as trumps are no worse than 3-1.

As the cards lie, West wins the queen of trumps, but he cannot harm declarer. If he continues with hearts, declarer ruffs in dummy, enters his hand with the ace of diamonds and draws the outstanding trumps. Declarer can then overtake the queen of diamonds and take all the discards he needs on dummy's diamonds. No other defense is more effective—the contract is always secure.

Part-time soldier killed in N. Ireland ambush

BELFAST (R) — An off-duty member of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) was shot dead Monday night, the first 1984 victim of Northern Ireland's political and sectarian violence.

A police spokesman said gunmen ambushed the part-time soldier in a van two miles (three kilometres) outside the town of Castlederg, County Tyrone, close to the border with the Irish Republic.

The gunman escaped across fields towards the border, the spokesman said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the killing.

In a campaign since 1969 by guerrillas fighting to end British rule in the province, more than 2,340 people — civilians and members of the security forces — have died in the violence.

Hong Kong says airport detainees not guerrillas

HONG KONG (R) — The Hong Kong government Tuesday dismissed press speculation that 14 Iranians detained for having forged passports were guerrillas planning an attack on the U.S. consulate.

A government statement said the detainees, who were held at Hong Kong International Airport when they arrived with forged French, Italian, German and Austrian passports, were well-educated Iranians hoping to gain residence in Canada.

But Canadian officials had indicated that the Iranians, aged between 18 and 29, would not be admitted there, the statement said.

One of the 14 has returned to Karachi where they started their trip, arriving in Hong Kong six days ago in two groups via Manila and Bangkok.

The gunmen escaped across fields towards the border, the spokesman said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the killing.

In a campaign since 1969 by guerrillas fighting to end British rule in the province, more than 2,340 people — civilians and members of the security forces — have died in the violence.

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Rebels blow up power line near Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Muslim guerrillas blew up a power transmission line near Kabul last Friday to mark the fourth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Western diplomats in Islamabad said Tuesday.

The government press reported the attack and published a photograph of a toppled pylon near Sorubi, 55 kilometres east of Kabul, the diplomats said, quoting reports from their embassies in the Afghan capital.

Soviet troops intervened on Dec. 27, 1979, helping to install President Babrak Karmal. They now number 105,000.

The diplomats also reported guerrilla assaults on the main grain silo in Kabul last Tuesday and Wednesday nights and two other attacks on a housing complex inhabited mainly by Soviet advisors to the Afghan government.

They said the attacks were less

spectacular than during the 1982 anniversary, when coordinated strikes against power lines and government installations disrupted electricity supplies for several weeks.

Extra security in and around Kabul appeared to have warded off big attacks this year, they said. Road checks were now so strict that soldiers trained their guns even at foreign diplomats' cars while others searched them.

Soviet daily attacks China over coverage of events in Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government daily Izvestia Tuesday accused China's official news agency of spreading crude anti-Soviet lies in its coverage of events in Afghanistan.

Fiercely attacking a New China News Agency report on Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, Izvestia said the agency had "crudely distorted the nature of the brotherly aid from the USSR" and published slander and inventions.

It challenged the entire attitude of the Chinese leadership to the Afghan question and said Peking should recognise the benefits of Communist rule in Kabul rather than siding with the United States in condemning Moscow's military presence.

The commentary was the second Soviet article in three days to take China to task for criticising

Moscow's foreign policy.

On Saturday the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) angrily accused China of seeing military danger only from the Russians and ignoring a military buildup by the United States.

Diplomats said the articles showed the Kremlin was running out of patience with Peking after nearly two years of relatively fruitless attempts to mend their strained relations.

Izvestia said the New China News Agency article on Afghanistan, published on Dec. 24, amounted to "outright anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan lies".

The article criticised Moscow's continued involvement in Afghanistan four years after troops were sent in to shore up the Afghan government.

The Soviet daily said the Chinese media had consistently ignored

the real facts about what was going on in and around Afghanistan.

The agency report itself was aimed at "justifying and whitewashing the aggressive, counter-revolutionary interference in the internal affairs of the democratic republic of Afghanistan," it added.

Moscow has occasionally accused China of supporting and arming anti-government Afghan rebels, but in the past two years it has been more critical of Peking's attitude on the question.

Diplomats said the two articles in the past week suggested Moscow now intended to take a more aggressive line towards China in the media, having apparently given up hope of an early radical improvement in bilateral ties.

Politicians reject Ershad's call for talks

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh opposition leaders Tuesday rejected an invitation from military ruler President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to join talks aimed at returning the country to democracy.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the Awami League Party and head of a 15-party alliance, said there could be no talks until General Ershad lifted a ban on political activity.

"Politics are banned, we cannot hold meetings openly. What can we discuss with Gen. Ershad in this situation?" she said.

Rashed Khan Menon, another

prominent member of the 15-party alliance, said talks with the government would be unproductive while Gen. Ershad rejected opposition demands.

Their demands include a lifting of the ban on political activity, an end to military rule, the release of political prisoners and early parliamentary elections.

The government issued its invitation Monday, calling on opposition leaders to meet on Jan. 7 to discuss the transition to democracy and opposition demands.

Many opposition leaders said they had not yet received an invitation to join the talks.

Begum Khaleida Zia, widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman and head of a seven-party alliance, said the alliance would meet later Tuesday to review the situation.

"Nothing concrete should be expected before Gen. Ershad concedes our demands and we get formal invitations," she said.

Both alliances said a half-day strike was still scheduled for Wednesday to put pressure on the military government to hand power back to civilian representatives.

Indian envoy arrives in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — A special envoy of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi arrived Tuesday to help prepare for an all-party conference next week on ethnic tension in Sri Lanka.

Envoy Gopalaswami Parthasarathi is to meet Sri Lankan President Junius Jayawardene later Tuesday.

Mr. Parthasarathi, making his third visit since tension between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils erupted in bloody violence in July, is mediating between the Sri Lanka government and Tamil leaders.

The envoy was expected to seek

clarification from Mr. Jayawardene on some issues raised by Tamil leaders before the all-party conference due to start on Tuesday.

The Tamil leaders, members of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) Party, moved to the southern Indian city of Madras after the riots in July in which nearly 400 people, mainly Tamils, were killed.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi Monday that the TULF leaders would return to Colombo Wednesday.

The front, one of 10 recognised political parties invited by Mr. Jayawardene to the all-party conference, has not said yet if it will attend.

Mr. Jayawardene, who had refused to talk to the TULF until it dropped its demand for a separate state, extended the invitation to it at insistence of the other parties.

Political sources said Mr. Parthasarathi was also likely to hold separate consultations with opposition leader Mr. Anura Bandaranaike and his mother, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, head of the opposition Sri Lankan Freedom Party.

Eyewitness account raises new questions about Aquino murder

By Joel Palacios

Reuter

MANILA — A surprise eyewitness has challenged the official version of the murder of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino, again raising questions about possible government involvement in the killing.

Aircraft maintenance man Ruben Regalado said the alleged gunman, identified by the military as Rolando Galman, did not kill Mr. Aquino when he arrived at Manila Airport on Aug. 21.

Police and military officials said Mr. Galman was a notorious criminal and Communist guerrilla leader. He was shot to death by security guards moments after Mr. Aquino was killed.

The former senator was felled by a single bullet fired at almost point blank range as he was escorted from the aircraft that brought him from Taipei on the final lap of his return after three years in the United States.

Mr. Regalado said in a U.S. television interview reported but not broadcast in the Philippines that it was impossible for Mr. Galman to have killed Mr. Aquino because at the time of the shooting "somebody inside a parked van was holding him by the wrist."

His account, the first serious dissent against the official version of the killing, was expected to inject fresh energy into a special murder inquiry which has so far been receiving only evidence provided by the military.

But Mr. Regalado's statements have caused a furor among the pro-government newspaper in Manila and a libel threat from the soldiers who escorted Mr. Aquino from the plane.

Lawyers for the four soldiers, announcing they were filing a four-million peso (\$26,000) libel suit against Mr. Regalado, said his allegations were "malicious, false, defamatory, a bare-faced lie and total fabrication."

But another lawyer from the All-Asia Bar Association said he planned to file a motion citing the four soldiers for contempt for threatening a witness whose claims were different from that of the military.

The libel threat constituted an "act obstructing, delaying, impeding and degrading the administration of justice," by the special commission inquiring into the murder, lawyer Juan David said.

But the five-member commission, which has been holding almost daily hearings on the case since last month, has clearly been hampered by the unwillingness of witnesses to testify.

Almost to a man, members of the military escorting Mr. Aquino and airport technical staff at the ramp where his plane parked have said they happened to be looking away just at the moment that Mr. Aquino was shot.

The pro-government Times-Journal newspaper, in an editorial comment on the hearings thus far, said "there appears to be an air of fear that holds back a number of persons from coming forward and testifying on what they actually saw."

"Those who earlier testified insisted they were all not looking when the shooting happened. After all, the return of Senator Aquino was just another of those things that happen every day," the newspaper said.

Columnist Arturo Borja, writing in the Metro Manila Times, described as devastating Mr. Reg-

alado's statement that Mr. Galman did not kill Sen. Aquino. He said the escorts' libel threat was a blessing to the general public.

"Now, the people know that there is a Ruben Regalado who claims to be an eye-witness to the Aquino slaying who gave the first account that contradicts the military version," he said.

Another columnist, Jesus Bigornia, said that "on major counts, Regalado virtually gave the lie to the government's claim of non-involvement in the Aquino assassination."

Writing in the newspaper Bulletin, Mr. Bigornia said Mr. Regalado belied claims of government witnesses that none of Sen. Aquino's escorts who led him from the aircraft carried a gun.

He noted that according to Mr. Regalado, one of the two sergeants accompanying Mr. Aquino "had a pistol which he was then firing at a man who turned out to be Galman."

"The trouble with the Regalado version is that the purveyor of the story has slipped out of the country. He cannot be cross-examined by the board in determining whether he is telling the truth or merely blackening the image of the military," Mr. Bigornia said.

Mr. Regalado was